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Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 27 Oct

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[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 27 October edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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DENUNCIATION OF AL-SHA'B EDITOR'S TRIAL CONTINUES

The decision to try AL-SHA'B Chief Editor Majdi Husayn and the arrest of Salah 'Abd-al-Maqsud, a member of the Egyptian Journalists Association [EJA] Council and a Muslim Brotherhood member, are among the major issues being tackled in several items and articles in this edition.

The lead story on pages 1 and 8 by Qutb al-'Arabi and 'Ala' al- Bahhar reports that Egyptian journalists on Saturday [28 October] will stage a sit-in to protest the decision to try Husayn and 'Abd- al-Maqsud before military courts. The 800-word report also details a confrontation between an EJA delegation and guards when the latter refused to allow the 15-member delegation from various newspapers into the court trying the detained Muslim Brotherhood members. It says the guards "confirmed that they have clear instructions from the court president not to allow journalists in" and refused even to admit the journalists as observers. It adds that the EJA condemned the military court's arbitrary action, the detention of AL-AHRAR photographer Bakr Khalil, and the confiscation of his film. Continuing its denunciation, the EJA asserted: "This is an unacceptable precedent set by a party belonging to the Armed Forces, a party that is highly respected and esteemed." It reiterated the journalists' unanimous decision at their general assembly and third general conference to reject the trial of civilians before military courts. The lead story then reports on the "international news conference" held by the EJA council on Wednesday [25 October] in which it warned the government against continuing its "vicious attack on the press and journalists." The conference, the report adds, condemned the trial of Majdi Husayn under the controversial Law 93 for 1995 and also the arrest of 'Abd-al-Maqsud and his referral to trial before a military court. Demanding their release, the council said it will continue taking the necessary measures toward this end. Speaking at the same conference, Majdi Husayn stressed that "political motive" is the only reason for his trial for an article published under the "suspect law," adding: "The public prosecutor has turned into an adversary and judge." Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus, deputy EJA chairman, spoke about the irregularities in the arrest of 'Abd-al-Maqsud, such as "his kidnapping" from the airport and his referral to the military prosecution office without notifying the EJA or his family, his interrogation in the absence of anyone from the EJA, and then his referral to a military court. Other EJA members also spoke about the arrest and condemned it while council member Majdi Muhanna rejected the "description of the Muslim Brotherhood as a dissolved group" and noted that joining the organization was not regarded as a crime several months ago. He then called for allowing the Muslim Brotherhood to form a political party. 'Abd-al-Maqsud's wife urged the journalists to do more to secure her husband's release.

INTERNATIONAL MEDIA'S INTEREST IN HUSAYN'S TRIAL NOTED

A 60-word unattributed report on page 1 notes international media interest in the case of Majdi Husayn and cites his interviews with BBC television and radio, the NEW YORK TIMES, Radio Canada and others.

INTELLECTUALS COMMENT ON HUSAYN'S TRIAL

A 3,000-word report on page 2 by 'Amr Salman and Mujahid al- 'Arusi gives the views of several prominent intellectuals and thinkers on the arrest of Majdi Husayn under Law 93 for 1995. All are unanimous in denouncing this arrest and in criticizing the law, though some of them cautioned that since the law has been enacted, it must be complied with until a new law is enacted by the legislative power. Among the figures cited is journalist Majdi Muhanna, who expresses surprise at the application of this law to Husayn, recalling in this regard President Mubarak's promise not to apply the law and his words: "If this law is applied, then contact me immediately." Dr. Sa'd-al-Din Ibrahim, chairman of the Ibn- Khaldun Center for Development and Cultural Development, is one of the few who caution against disrespect for any law and says that there "are ways to differ with any law, ranging from open civil disobedience to bypassing it." Saying that the government's promise not to apply the law was merely a political one, he says: "This law was enacted by the People's Assembly and its suspension must also come from a decision that has the force of law. Since this has not been done, then Law No. 93 will remain effective and used whenever the state wants to." Dr. Ahamad Shalabi, teacher of Islamic Civilization at Cairo University, expresses the hope that the law will not be applied until it is amended. Ambassador Bahiy-al-Din al-Rashidi reiterates the same view and says that the government and opposition should get together to "review the laws that restrict freedoms and other laws that were enacted before Mubarak became president." Dr. 'Abd-al-Rashid Saqr, identified as a known Islamic preacher, is cited as saying that the state should honor and appreciate people such as Majdi Husayn and not commit them to trial. He adds: "Has the time not come to bury human laws forever? Preaching reform will not be advanced except by the return of Islam to the Islamic nation." 'Abdallah Khalil, chairman of the legal committee of the Egyptian Human Rights Society, criticizes the law and the trial of Husayn as a new violation of the freedom of expression. He adds: "The referral of Majdi Husayn to trial under the ill-fated Law 93 for 1995 is a serious signal that there is a policy on the journalists and an attempt to spread an atmosphere of intellectual terrorism among the political opposition before the coming election battle." Saying that Husayn's trial coincided with the referral of civilians to military courts and with the arrest of 'Abd-al-Maqsud, he voices the opinion that this shows that the "attack on freedom of opinion and expression and on the peaceful opposition is a vicious one and is planned to repress any views that oppose the regime and its policies."

LABOR LEADER URGES OFFICIAL, POPULAR ACTION ON CONGRESS DECISION

In his 1,200-word article on pages 1 and 8, Labor leader Ibrahim Shukri writes about the Jerusalem issue following the U.S. Congress decision to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. He begins by reviewing measures taken by Israel to Judaize the city amid Arab silence and what he calls feeble reactions and the various UN resolutions on the issue. He says the Arabs and Muslims can do a lot to "force Israel and the United States to rescind their decisions." For that purpose he proposes either a mini or a full Arab summit or at least a meeting of their foreign ministers and also a meeting of the Jerusalem Committee to study the adoption of practical measures. He then calls for action on the popular level. He proposes that all candidates in the parliamentary elections declare a "single slogan, namely, the defense of Jerusalem." He urges the press "to ask governments to take a stand on U.S. diplomatic missions in the Arab and Islamic countries, demand a halt to negotiations with Israel, and reject U.S. sponsorship of these negotiations after showing a bias in favor of Israel on the most important and serious issue." After urging some more action, including the holding of a popular Arab and Islamic conference on Jerusalem, he criticizes those going to the Amman economic summit to negotiate after this decision has been made.

POLITICAL DETAINEES GO ON HUNGER STRIKE

A 90-word unattributed report on page 1 says that political detainees in the Wadi al-Natrun Prison have gone on hunger strike to protest ill-treatment. It adds that detainees in wing three, "who have been in prison for years without trial," began the strike six days ago to protest their "barbaric torture." The report also says they were beaten to make them end their strike after the State Security officers failed to prevent it.

MILITARY TRIAL OF BROTHERHOOD MEMBERS REPORTED

A 300-word report on pages 1 and 8 by Dawud Hasan and Khalid Yunus deals with the military trial of the detained Muslim Brotherhood members. It says that on 26 October the military court resumed the trial of the first group of detainees while the second group was kept outside in police vans, in the sun, with the court refusing defense demands to adjourn the session to take a rest. It adds that the court listened to the testimony of the chief witness, State Security Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab Hasan, on the video and tapes he prepared and supervised for presentation as evidence. Saying that the chief witness "appeared nervous when he answered prosecution and defense questions while the detained brothers exhibited high morale," the report claims that the video tape showed only six of the 49 detained Muslim Brotherhood members walking in the street outside the premises of AL-DA'WAH, the Muslim Brotherhood headquarters. Several defendants questioned the way the video tape was made, others claimed to have been elsewhere, and the defense claimed that the video was doctored and shot at different times, not in one day.

ISLAMIC ACTION CANDIDATES BARRED FROM STUDENTS UNION ELECTIONS

A 250-word report by Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid on pages 1 and 8 says the Islamic Action students at Cairo University filed a petition with the Administrative Court to repeal a decision made by the dean of the College of Sciences to remove their names from the list of candidates for next year's Students Union elections. The students say the college administration last week "removed the names of around 250 Islamic candidates out of 356 students who submitted their candidature papers to the Students Union committees." The report adds that the students staged a demonstration on Wednesday [25 October] to protest the university's measures for the elections to be held on 1 November. It says that several vehicles carrying policemen were seen in front of the university's main gate during the demonstration.

ISLAMIC HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP SET UP IN UNITED STATES

A 90-word unattributed item on page 1 reports the establishment of a new human rights organization in the United States "guided in its work by Islamic shari'ah." The report adds that the International Society for Human Rights, ISHR [acronym printed in English], will cooperate with all governmental or nongovernmental Islamic human rights societies.

TIME, NEWSWEEK REPORT ON EGYPTIAN POWS KILLED BY ISRAELIS

An unattributed 800-word item on page 4 highlights reports carried by TIME and NEWSWEEK on Egyptian prisoners of war killed by Israeli troops during the 1956 and 1967 wars.

STUDENTS ARRESTED FOR MEETING ISLAMIC CANDIDATES

A 60-word unattributed report on page 6 says the al-Minufiyah intelligence security officers arrested students Majdi Sa'id al- Shafi'i, Hamdi Mahmud Khashbak, and 'Izzat Mahmud Khashbak for receiving Islamic Alliance parliamentary candidates Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Bashar and Fawzi Sulayman. The report adds: "Though the prosecutor's office ordered their release they are still being detained illegally in the Shibin al-Kawm police station."

DETAINEES' RELATIVES APPEAL FOR THEIR RELEASE

A 600-word report by Ahmad Mahjub and Hamdi Taha on page 6 cites appeals from relatives of detainees from al-Minya and Asyut Governorates to have their sons, husbands, and other relatives released. The report says that since 1992 there have been "many cases of arrests during security forces' raids on al-Minya mosques, many, in particular, when the crisis began. These detainees are still behind bars and there is no sign that they will be released despite many court rulings to release them." Several of the cases mentioned concern detentions without trial and the arrests of breadwinners. Most of those quoted appeal for their release, like the sick mother of 21-year-old detainee Qadhdhafi Muhammad 'Abd-al- Rahman. She appeals to the interior minister to release her "only son so that she can see him on her deathbed."

SECURITY TROUBLES REPORTED IN BANI SUWAYF GOVERNORATE

On page 7 an unattributed 110-word report says there are currently severe security troubles in the Bani Suwayf Governorate as a result of increasingly violent activity. It adds that "the security forces have imposed a security blockade on Markaz al-Fashn, which is near the center of events, and dispatched armored vehicles and over 10 Central Security vehicles to the area." The report also claims that random arrests were made in Markaz Sumusta al-Waqf and adds: "In addition the security forces are making large-scale arrests among the remaining Islamic Group members in Sumusta and al- Fashn fearing violent actions in these areas."

POLICE ACCUSED OF FOCUSING ON OPPOSITION INSTEAD OF THUGS

A 500-word article by Ahmad Husayn, a member of the Labor Party's Higher Committee, lashes out at what he calls the security forces' inaction against the armed outlaws and thugs in the Port Said Governorate. He says they are intimidating the people and chasing girls in broad daylight. Accusing the security forces of turning a blind eye to this thuggery, he writes: "It is noticeable that most of the security forces' efforts are concentrated on those who have ideas, exercise their right to belong to a political party, or play their patriotic role of opposing the government."

SEMINAR HELD ON EXTREMISM, INTELLECTUAL DEVIATION

In a 1,100-word report on page 10 Hasan al-Qamhawi relates the proceedings of a three-day cultural seminar organized by the Followers of Prophet Muhammad's

Tradition Society about extremes in religion and familial happiness. Most of the speakers deal with the mundane issues of the sanctity of life, religion and science, and family traditions. But society chairman Safwat al-Shawadifi touched on extremism in religion. Saying that there is a difference between religious piety, which is the advocation of righteousness, and deviation represented by excessiveness, over-zealousness, and exaggeration, he adds that he has reservations about the use of the term "religious extremism." He stresses that "there is no extremism in religion, but ideological extremism." The report also cites a short message from Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq, the shaykh of al-Azhar, in which he stresses that "there is no link between 'religion' and violent incidents in Egypt." He notes that any deviation from religion must be referred to knowledgeable scholars. Also taking part in the seminar was Manpower Minister Ahmad al- 'Amawi, who "stressed that there is no need to link unemployment with extremism. What we are seeing is a deviation in thinking, while unemployment is a global phenomenon." Saying that the minister tried to spare the government any embarrassment, the report adds that the minister "stressed that the government alone is not responsible, but so too is society as a whole, particularly businessmen, and the solution lies in more investment and private sector work."

WRITER HAILS ISLAMIC AWAKENING IN REGION, UNITED STATES

In his weekly 5,000-word article on page 5, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn views what he calls the onslaught on the Islamic awakening in the Islamic world and asserts that the Islamic trend is not weakening because of this onslaught, which, he alleges, even involves the Egyptian Government. Starting his article by asserting that "in all the Arab countries, even elsewhere, the Islamists are waging the battles of democracy and of upholding human rights, the battles of national liberation from the tyranny of the world order, and the battles of serious development to rebuild the land and establish a new civilization that obeys God. We are facing in all this a vicious war by the enemies of virtue, a trait we advocate." He takes the case of Algeria and the French Government's support for the "tyrannical military group." After citing an article in FOREIGN AFFAIRS on Algeria and the West's extreme caution in dealing with the Islamic awakening, he claims that the main focus and the prepared recommendations of the European-Mediterranean conference due to be held in Barcelona at the end of November are meant to deal a blow to the Islamic awakening.

Moving on to Sudan, he criticizes the Egyptian Government for trying to turn Sudan into Egypt's potential enemy after being its strategic depth. He accuses Ethiopia and other countries of scheming with the United States to contain Sudan and fragment its unity, citing as evidence recent statements by the Ethiopian president, his meeting with President Clinton, the welcome given to the southern secessionists, and reports that Ethiopia is massing troops on the border with Sudan. He then says that despite the threats and measures taken against the Islamic regime in Sudan, the latter is stronger and is achieving progress through its own resources.

'Adil Husayn then moves on to view the cases of Iraq and Iran. Of Iraq he says: "The Iraqi people are facing the most vicious war ever, the objective of which is to annihilate an entire people because of a major 'crime' Israel is committing, the crime of possessing weapons of mass destruction, that is, nuclear, chemical, and germ warfare." He then praises the Iraqi people for refusing to submit to the "enemies." Moving on to Iran, he criticizes Ibrahim Nafi', the editor of AL-AHRAM, for writing two articles about the dangers posed by Iran. He refutes Nafi's assertion that these dangers come from the Iranian regime exporting the Islamic revolution and attempting to control the Gulf states, adding that the threat comes from the United States, Israel, and the Western military presence in the region.

The writer then launches a scathing attack on the Arab countries, especially Egypt, participating in the Amman economic summit. He says of the summit: "This arena sees the most dangerous retreat on the Arab-Islamic front. According to the signed agreements, some Arab rulers, led by the regime in Egypt, have publicly and frankly abandoned the Palestine cause and ignored the Zionists' occupation of Jerusalem." He argues that the Amman summit is a prominent landmark on the road of capitulation and will serve only Israel's interests at the expense of the Arabs. He says that despite all this the achievements of the enemies remain fragile. He praises the Syrian stance, Hizballah's actions in south Lebanon, the resistance in Palestine, and the growing opposition in Jordan.

'Adil Husayn moves next to what he terms the "miracle" in the United States, namely, the march of the Nation of Islam in Washington. He says the media and the Zionists who hate Farakhan tried to dissuade people from attending but 1 million came to hear that leader and others speak. He adds that this new movement will "make the blacks who have been guided to the right path a focus for all the oppressed in the United States for the sake of a comprehensive reform that will eliminate the white racist supremacy." He argues that this movement is not hostile to whites but only "exposes the killing, slavery, and humiliation to which the blacks have been subjected." He also mentions that America's white society is witnessing a sincere Christian renaissance that "could join the efforts of the Nation of Islam in eliminating injustice if God wills forgiving the American nation's sins and saving it from collapse." But, he adds, the hope of salvation remains with the faithful blacks in the first place, a hope boosted by the march of 1 million men. He writes: "Needless to say, any change in the behavior of American society toward justice and benevolence will reflect on all international relations, especially relations between north and south, and U.S. relations with the Islamic awakening."

The writer ends the article by asking the Egyptian Government: "How many participants do you estimate will take part in a march that we call for, if you permit, to show the extent of the people's support for the application of Islamic shari'ah and for changing your spineless and corrupt government? Do you not believe it will be double the 'Farkhan' march? Is it not better for this march to be organized as the U.S. one was and to be held simultaneously with free elections or do you prefer an explosive tornado?"

Palestinian Affairs

Clinton Voices Commitment To Implementing Accords

JN0711081795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received a call from U.S. President Bill Clinton in which he voiced the U.S. Administration's commitment to the continuation and promotion of the Palestinian-Israeli peace process and the implementation of the Oslo accords. Clinton reaffirmed the decision of Shim'on Peres, the Israeli acting prime minister, to implement the agreement on implementing the second phase of the Declaration of Principles.

U.S., Israeli Flags Burned at al-Shaqaqi Rally

TA0511123095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Nov 95 p A8

[Report by 'Amira Hess and ITIM]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday thousands attended a rally, staged by Islamic Jihad in al-Yarmuk Square in central Gaza, commemorating Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the slain secretary general of the organization. The Palestinian Police approved the rally, and police were stationed at the square's gate and on the roads leading to it.

The main message of the speakers, all of whom were organization members, was that the murder will not paralyze their activities and that terror attacks will continue. A recorded speech by Ramadan Shalah, the new Islamic Jihad leader, played at the rally, started by quoting al-Shaqaqi who told him: "Know the way to die in order to live; and not the way to live in order to die." Shalah announced: "Our martyrs have drafted the borders of Palestine for us. In the north, the blood of Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi, and in the south al-Shaqaqi's blood. A movement whose leader dies, will not change its mind nor its stands after his death."

He called on the Palestinian people to "stop placing their bets on the devil," adding that "the peace that failed to grant Abu- Ibrahim (al-Shaqaqi) a grave in the homeland, will not give us a state."

Participants at the rally burned Israeli and U.S. flags, as well as an effigy of Rabin wearing a Star of David. Placards were hung on fences around the square condemning the peace process. A certain placard read: "Oslo is the gate through which the (alien) Jewish body will enter every capital."

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who hosted the Portuguese president yesterday, was asked for his opinion about the recent attacks. "There are extremists on both sides," he said. "We could have solved several problems, if it was not for the Malta incident."

On 3 November, some 20 masked members of the Islamic Jihad and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine staged a joint march in Qabatiyah, in the Janin District, commemorating al-Shaqaqi. They burned U.S. and Israeli flags and chanted "death to Israel" and "death to America."

PA Bans AL-BILAD Distribution in Territories

TA0511130195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Nov 95 p A8

[Report by Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Palestinian Authority [PA] has banned the distribution of the highly popular Jordanian weekly AL-BILAD in the territories. Officials at the PA's information ministry, which is responsible for licensing and supervising the media in the territories, said that the reason for the distribution ban was administrative and had nothing to do with AL-BILAD's contents.

Hatim 'Abd-al-Qadir, the PA official in charge of publications, asserted that AL-BILAD did not submit a request for a distribution license in the territories. This, in contravention of the new (publications) law which was adopted by the PA several months ago. Therefore, the weekly's distribution has been banned.

The law stipulates that every paper or publication seeking to disseminate copies in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip must apply to the Palestinian information ministry for a license before beginning distribution.

Nevertheless, Palestinian sources close to the information ministry said that the real reason behind the steps taken against AL-BILAD was a report published in the weekly's latest issue (dated 1 November) on the assassination of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi al- Shaqaqi approximately 10 days ago. The article posited a theory about a joint plot by the Libyan and Israeli intelligence services, with the assistance of the PA.

"The PA is undoubtedly the third culprit behind al-Shaqaqi's assassination," the weekly stated, basing the charge on claims that some senior officials in the PA and PLO had considered al-Shaqaqi to be "a spy of the Iranian intelligence services," and that one of the officials had even vowed to "hit him hard on the head."

The article later continues: "The accusing finger may even point to 'Arafat himself." Palestinian sources said that these statements infuriated senior PA officials, who ordered the distribution of the weekly in the territories banned. [passage omitted]

In the past, the PA has taken action against several Palestinian newspapers published in the territories but this is the first time that it has adopted steps against a foreign publication distributed in the territories.

Bassam Abu-Sharif Previews New Party

BR0611134695 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 5 Nov 95 p 3

[Interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, "candidate for the leadership of the movement preparing to take over the PLO's role in the occupied territories," by Andrea Purgatori in Amman; date not given: "The PLO is Finished; My Party Is the Future for Palestine" — first two paragraphs are CORRIERE DELLA SERA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The PLO is "finished," Yasir 'Arafat "is getting it wrong," and "there is nothing democratic" about the forthcoming elections to be held in the Territories. This is why opposition by Jihad and Hamas "is growing fat on the errors that have been committed." The future Palestinian state needs something else: an "overall development program," and a "new, modern party" capable of drawing it up. What to call it? "Assembly for the Palestinian People," for instance. So says Bassam Abu-Sharif, 'Arafat's former spokesman and adviser, Palestinian propaganda strategist, author of the first draft agreement with the Israelis, but for two years at loggerheads with his charismatic leader, indeed, a candidate for the leadership of the movement preparing to take over the PLO's role in the occupied territories and among Palestinians in exile, of which he, moreover, is one.

Bassam lives in a white stone building at the top of a hill in the residential outskirts of Amman. He has been changing his address and sleeping in a different bed almost every night for 30 years; he has had a brush with death and paid dearly for his escape with an eye, 10 phalanges, and a scar along the top of his neck: A parcel bomb, a present from the Mossad to the then People's Front spokesman, the first recruitor of Carlos the Jackal, the hawk Habbash's right-hand man. That was how Bassam was to have died. Instead, he has published a book this year, its title being "Tried by Fire," memoirs written jointly with Uzi Mahnaimi, former enemy and Israeli secret service agent, now a journalist: the man who sent the parcel bomb, an explosive book on Che Guevara.

[Purgatori] Can you not return to the territories, Bassam?

[Abu-Sharif] The Israelis have not yet granted me an entry visa.

[Purgatori] You know Shim'on Peres personally: Have you not asked him?

[Abu-Sharif] Yes. He told me, "Neither I nor Prime Minister Rabin have any objections." There seems to be some discrepancy between political will and intelligence service decisions. That is why I am in Jordan, and this is where I have distanced myself from the Palestine National Authority.

[Purgatori] Why the break?

[Abu-Sharif] Our people need a modern organization and transparent institutions, laws, justice, and democracy. This is the Palestinians' ambition, and the way in which matters are being handled in the territories is not the way we want.

[Purgatori] Who do you mean by "we"?

[Abu-Sharif] Let us say a group of Palestinians who have already begun meeting and discussing things, and who will very shortly be presenting a political and economic program that will form the core of a new movement that believes in the peace process but, at the same time, will fight for democracy, human rights, and the building of transparent institutions, a movement that will throw open the door to progress and technology, that wants the Palestinians capable of meeting these demands in the key posts.

[Purgatori] When did the break occur?

[Abu-Sharif] On a practical level, when 'Arafat entered Gaza. Actually, immediately after the Washington settlement. This does not mean that I am against 'Arafat: I am against his way of running things. Leading the PLO is one thing, but building a state is another. If he carries on running the Palestinians' affairs the way he ran the PLO, it will be a catastrophe: We are talking about people now, not an organization. The goals are different, and so is the program. Centralization will lead to collapse.

[Purgatori] Is 'Arafat afraid of losing power, or what?

[Abu-Sharif] I hope he realizes that he has to change, and the program I mentioned before is at his disposal. If he decides to adopt it, fine. If not, he will have to fight it democratically.

[Purgatori] In your opinion, is 'Arafat's current political line the force boosting the power of the Hamas and Jihad dissidents?

[Abu-Sharif] I do not regard Hamas as a problem. It is a phenomenon with a limited scope that is growing fat on the errors that have been committed, but it does not represent the Palestinian people, which has never backed religious extremism. This is why I refer to building a state: The choice must not be restricted to opting for either a national authority or Hamas. The majority of Palestinians are in favor of the peace process, they are for technology...

[Purgatori] But it is a majority without money, for the time being.

[Abu-Sharif] Money will turn up too if there are transparent institutions and the certainty that the funds will not go here and there but will be invested in a project capable of creating jobs, if there are laws that protect those investments.

[Purgatori] You sound like the secretary of a new party.

[Abu-Sharif] The new political party will come into being. Whether or not I become its secretary remains to be seen.

[Purgatori] Will [the new party] be ready for the elections in the territories?

[Abu-Sharif] I do not know. There is nothing democratic about these elections. Everywhere else in the world, you vote to elect members of a parliament, and a government is formed in the light of the outcome. The parliament is there to monitor the government's actions. But if the government is elected directly, who can call on it to account for its actions? The people? This is the point: There will be no way of overseeing the administrators elected in the territories, unless 'Arafat is elected separately and has the job of overseeing the government and the rest.

[Purgatori] On his own?

[Abu-Sharif] On his own. 'Arafat is a symbol, we are fond of him, but this is something quite different.

[Purgatori] Do you still talk to each other?

[Abu-Sharif] On the phone.

[Purgatori] What does 'Arafat have to say about it?

[Abu-Sharif] No, I would have to talk to him face to face... He and Rabin are happy with this election system, but not the Palestinians.

[Purgatori] Is this the end of the PLO?

[Abu-Sharif] I said so way back when the peace agreement was signed: The PLO is finished. It continues to exist because it allows people to draw a salary. The PLO had a program, and its program has been completed: end of story. What we need now is a new program. The Palestinians would much rather have a president with a four-year term of office, after which another president takes over, not a president for life.

[Purgatori] Do you not think you are being hard on 'Arafat?

[Abu-Sharif] Then I will tell you something: The doors are not open to all Palestinians now, only to his entourage. So let us put it this way: Bassam Abu-Sharif was a great fighter for 35 years? Fantastic, he is a hero, so let us give him a medal, allocate him a house, and pay for his children's education. But please, let us call those who really have a useful contribution to make and give them the job of rebuilding Palestine, including those who have never fought, those who have stayed away.

[Purgatori] More important than the Jerusalem issue?

[Abu-Sharif] At the moment, definitely. It just serves to distract attention without leading anywhere; for example, it does not deal with the matter of the settlers. I am sure that 90 percent of them would be willing to leave the settlements if only they were offered $20-30,000 more than it cost them to buy their homes. I am sure they would move somewhere else in Israel.

[Purgatori] Why are funds not arriving?

[Abu-Sharif] And to whom should they go? To me? To 'Arafat? To whom? In Italy, a government would resign in 24 hours if a shortfall of $10,000 were discovered.

[Purgatori] Italy is not a good example to take.

[Abu-Sharif] Then let us imagine that Italy wants to finance the rebuilding of a harbor: Where should it send the 100 billion that it would cost: to 'Arafat's personal bank account? That is why we need institutions.

New Islamic Jihad Leader on Future Action

JN0611165595 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 6 Nov 95 p 5

[Interview with Dr. Ramadan 'Abdallah, new secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement, by Chief Editor Fahd al-Rimawi on 1 November; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Rimawi] The martyrdom of Fathi al-Shaqaqi has sent shock waves through the Islamic Jihad Movement and outside of it. How did you personally take the news of his martyrdom? What did you do on the organizational level to contain the effects of this tragedy?

['Abdallah] On the personal level, it is impossible for me to find the proper words to describe my feelings when I first heard the news of his death. Sometimes, when developments are beyond one's capacity for endurance, one becomes incredulous and acts as if nothing has happened. First, I did not believe that the story on his death was true. Nonetheless, thanks to our convictions and to God's providence, we have always viewed Dr. al-Shaqaqi as a potential martyr. This enabled us to put our act together, and to meet the news of his death with complete resignation to God's fate in order to prepare ourselves for what is ahead of us.

On the organizational and practical level, the news of his death was first known only to a handful of officials within the movement. This remained so for 24 hours. We acted and held contacts to ascertain the news of the assassination.

When we became almost certain that the assassination story was true, we held contacts with the brother leaders in all arenas. We examined the new development to come up with the appropriate response to it. The first firm decision we made was to elect a successor to fill the void left by the assassination of Dr. Fathi, one who would address the developments created by this blow. The movement's leaders in all arenas were unanimous on the need to elect a new secretary general because they thought that this would be part of the response to the enemy, which thought that the assassination of Dr. Fathi would bring about the disintegration and demise of the movement.

It was God's will that I would be given the honor of bearing this responsibility. I beseech God to help me uphold this banner and continue the journey started by Dr. Fathi, may God have mercy on him, our comrade-in-arms who spearheaded our jihad.

[Al-Rimawi] Were you chosen by consensus?

['Abdallah] Yes, I was chosen by consensus at all shura bodies of the movement in all arenas inside and outside Palestine.

[Al-Rimawi] In your eulogy and the statement issued by the movement a few days ago, you pledged to avenge the assassination by attacking the Israeli enemy. You have said that the Zionists will not be safe inside or outside the Zionist entity. Do you have any press clarifications on this secret and sensitive matter?

['Abdallah] Palestine has always been our basic battlefield. We had forewarned the enemy that any operations outside Palestine or any efforts to expand the battle would be reciprocated by the movement. When it expands the cycle of war and gets so close as to kill brother leader Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the enemy must bear the responsibility for this and face the consequences.

[Al-Rimawi] We also heard such a threat today from our brothers in Hizballah when Hasan Narallah gave a speech during the eulogizing ceremony. Is there any possibility of launching a joint action?

['Abdallah] Dr. Fathi is the martyr of the entire Arab and Islamic nation. Inevitably, any mujahid or struggler considers himself to be in the trench of confrontation with this fierce enemy. As they feel the painful effect of brother Abu-Ibrahim [Fathi al-Shaqaqi] assassination, they would certainly think of doing something. I have nothing to say now about the mechanism and manner. I also have nothing to say about the timing or at what level the revenge will take place.

[Al-Rimawi] Do you intend to follow the same central path that was adopted by the movement's leadership during al-Shaqaqi's term in office, or do you intend to operate within the framework of the collective leadership, in light of some organizational reconciliations that have been accomplished following differences that emerged in the past?

['Abdallah] First of all, the question of centralism in Dr. al-Shaqaqi's work can be misconstrued by some. Collective activity was the basis of Dr. al-Shaqaqi's work. He was always keen on practicing shura and involving his brothers in the movement's affairs. He was an unusual, distinguished, and resourceful person. He had well-established opinions and ideas. His opinions were always respected. He was always successful in persuading others of his opinions through deliberations and an actual practice of shura which was a basic element in his work.

Definitely, we will continue to adopt this approach based on shura and emphasis on the unity of the movement. This unity will increase and expand the movement's activity and help it have a new beginning that will overcome the negative impact of the painful loss of the brother martyr.

[Al-Rimawi] The structure and leadership of the movement is mainly made up of elements from the Gaza Strip. Do you not consider expanding toward the West Bank, especially since the movement has great popularity there — popularity that was not streamlined, and thus did not benefit the movement?

['Abdallah] The movement does exist in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. However, the fact that the movement has a more intensive presence in the Gaza Strip is linked to the history of the movement. The early elements, the nucleus, who were the vanguard of this movement were originally from the Gaza Strip. While Dr. al-Shaqaqi was working in the West Bank, particularly from the early 1980's until the mid 1980's, the movement expanded widely. However, in recent years, the movement suffered a number of blows from the enemy. There have always been wide-scale arrest campaigns against the movement's cadres. This certainly affects its activity and hinders its expansion, even though temporarily. At any rate, the movement is present in the West Bank on the grassroot and leadership level. Some cadres from the West Bank are members in the movement's Shura Council.

[Al-Rimawi] Dr. al-Shaqaqi had a great desire to merge his Arab and Islamic identity, and he constantly searched for common denominators between Arab nationalists and Islamists.

Do you really believe in these ideas? What exactly is your ideological view regarding this issue?

['Abdallah] In my opinion, there is no contradiction between Arabism and Islam. The fabricated battle between Arabism and Islam, which was circulated or which occupied part of our thinking and practices in the past few decades, did not have any ideological origin or historical basis to justify it.

Concepts were actually mixed up from the very beginning. I believe that using the expression of nationalism as an alternative to Arabism played a role in making some Islamists, for example, resent Arabism. This is because the expression of nationalism is linked to a European idea, to the birth of the nationalist idea in Europe, and to the conflict between the church and secularism.

In our history, there is no church, and this kind of conflict was thus out of the question. Citing the European experience, with all its consequences, and upholding the idea of nationalism, as it is in the West, in an attempt to spread it among us can generate an atmosphere of misunderstanding by some Islamists who think that it is a foreign alternative which seeks to remove them from the scene.

Arabism is the original idea, so it is not considered a problem on the ideological level in the first place. God Almighty says: The Koran is indeed the message, for thee and for thy people; and soon shall ye (all) be brought to account. [Koranic verse] God did not say your nation, which is here an expression or a concept that can refer to many peoples. The one people or group in this Koranic verse are the Arabs. An Arab prophet was entrusted with carrying this message in Arabic.

This Koranic verse frankly and clearly tells us that the Arabs were primarily entrusted with carrying the message, and that spreading it to other nations was also an Arab responsibility. The Koran frankly asked the Arabs to assume this responsibility. God Almighty says: And soon shall ye (all) be brought to account. [part of a Koranic verse]

There is also the idea that the Islamic message is a universal one. Islam is a universal religion which addresses the entire mankind. God chose the Arabic language as a vehicle to convey this message. It is thus natural for this universal message to require that the vehicle carrying it should also be universal even if this vehicle was not originally so. After Islam was chosen to carry a universal message, it has enjoyed a universal character.

In the Koran, Arabism is not only confined to the Arabic language; there is a reference to a certain policy or style of life and thinking. Thus have we revealed it to be a judgment of authority in Arabic. [Koranic verse] The matter is thus not confined to Arabic.

In brief, we can say there is no contradiction between Arabism and Islam. As we have said, the Arabs' special role in spreading the message of Islam has enabled them to Arabize many nations instead of abandoning Arabism.

No Muslim says that adherence to Islam means denial of Arabism. Islam does not ask people to abandon their Arabism in order to be good Muslims. Moreover, Islam has opened the door for many non-Arabs to become Muslims and come to Arabism.

[Al-Rimawi] There are currently two conflicting trends in the Palestinian arena: Jihad, which is facing extremely difficult situations; and a capitulatory trend, which is backed by the United States, Israel, and several Arab regimes. How do you view the future of that conflict, and which trend do you believe will be toppled?

['Abdallah] Our conflict with the enemy is not new, but old and bitter. It is more than 75 years old, and was governed by many principles, historical doctrines, and many types of jihad. Now they want to liquidate this conflict and replace it with what is called a settlement as a result of imbalance of power, a criteria which has always been there. By the way, there has never been a balance of power in our favor.

What is happening now is that a faction of this nation has become tired, does not want to go ahead, is content with some temporary and personal gains, and wants to relinquish this long history of struggle.

What is happening in the region and also to the mechanism of the conflict is more than a disaster. The imbalance of power is the main justification for that. Such an imbalance, which is not in our favor, may change. Nobody can guarantee it will remain in its present state. The West itself says that the balance of power will change within the next 20 years. The World Bank says that China will be the number one country in 2020, and the Pentagon quotes reports as saying that by 2015, the United States will have retreated. Other reports say that within 20 years, more than 10 Third World countries will become among the most powerful economies in the world. China, Asia, and India will advance. We alone are retreating and opening the door for Israel to further change the balance of power in its favor in order to protect itself, along with other advancing countries, when the United States, which is now the strongest, is no longer the number one country. This is serious.

They want to block the road for any possible benefiting from any future change in the balance of power. They want us to merge Israel into the region and pay the costs of its existence in this region. When Israel loses the U.S. support, on which it now relies, it would have, by then, established relations with all world countries and become part of this region's structure.

In light of this understanding, we believe that the conflict between two trends will ultimately be governed by the change in the region and the world, as well as by the legitimate right to Palestine, the right for which all the potentials of the nation would be devoted. A day will come when the entire nation becomes biased toward confrontation, jihad, and resistance, because it is the genuine course and justice. Everything else will be strange to our militant legacy, our objectives, and our national and Islamic ambitions.

[Al-Rimawi] Today, approximately half a million Palestinians took to the streets to participate in the funeral of martyr al-Shaqaqi. I am sure that the overwhelming majority of them did not know him and I do not believe that the Islamic Jihad Organization mobilized all those people. What is your explanation of this?

['Abdallah] This shows that the masses realize, instinctively and through their honest sense, who really represents their cause, who speaks on their behalf, and who defends them. When the masses heard of his departure they realized that his absence was a blow to the defense of their cause. They took to the street to reject absenting the defenders and strugglers of this cause, as well as to reaffirm to all those who believe that the Palestinian people outside Palestine have become a forgotten figure, that they are not so. It is known that the agreements signed between the exhausted people and the Zionist enemy have cast aside or canceled this people. The people today proved that they cannot be cast aside or canceled and that they are at the heart of the battle. The people could be absent and exhausted and their will might be weakened at a certain moment or at a certain stage, but they will always remain with their cause and with those who truly represent it.

[Al-Rimawi] The Islamic Jihad Movement and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] share the same ideological leaning, that is, Islam. The two movements were recently subjected to a harsh campaign and suffered great, if not grave, losses. Scores of Hamas members fell as martyrs or were arrested, including the head of the Hamas Political Bureau. A similar number, if not more, from your movement had the same fate, including martyr Fathi al-Shaqaqi, Hani 'Abid, and others. Do the two movements have any plans to unite?

['Abdallah] If you mean merger, then this is an important issue and requires a great effort on the part of the two sides. Merger is not impossible provided it becomes a goal for the two sides. As for the unified platform, common denominators with Hamas are quite many. I can hardly find any point of difference. There are, indeed, many points of agreement with Hamas. Our relations are excellent and are based on consultation and coordination of positions. We and Hamas are part of the Alliance of Palestinian Forces.

Finally, I say to you that unity and coalition with the brothers in Hamas has always been one of our priorities. Martyr al-Shaqaqi always thought that this was a basic issue and that we should continue to work to accomplish the sublime goal, that is, the highest level of unity. We will continue to proceed along this path, and we will nurture the idea of unity with Hamas. It will be one of our priorities in the forthcoming stage. We will maintain contacts for the sake of the Islamic plan in Palestine and throughout the Islamic world.

[Al-Rimawi] My last question is on British news reports to the effect that Rabin ordered the Mosad to liquidate you, and on the U.S. authority's freezing of bank accounts in your name in the United States.

['Abdallah] Rabin's move is quite expected; there is nothing new about it. Martyrdom is our dearest wish because it gives us real life. I had responded to Rabin earlier in my eulogy of martyr Dr. Fathi at the Martyr's Cemetery. I have nothing else to say, except to emphasize that we accepted the challenge and that there is a date between us and Rabin. Tomorrow is not far from those who wait for it.

As for the U.S. Administration's move, it gives fresh evidence that it is the party that leads the battle against our people and nation with all means on behalf of Israel.

I would like to note that the frozen assets are only a $2,000 personal account and a $15,000 account in the name of the U.S.-based Islam and World Studies Center, of which I was director.

Attends Ceremonies for al-Shaqaqi

LD0611133595 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ceremonies marking the seventh day of the martyrdom of Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine, were held with the participation of religious and political figures as well as a large group of people in Lebanon.

At the meeting, Ramadan 'Abdallah, the new secretary general of Islamic Jihad, spoke about the need to continue the path of martyr al-Shaqaqi and said we will revenge the blood of the great martyr from the Zionists.

He also thanked and praised the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the guardian of the cause of Muslims [Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i] and said his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i has brought pride to Islam and Muslims through his comprehensive support for the Palestinian ideal.

Hamas: Al-Faluji No Longer Represents Movement

JN0611121595 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 6 Nov 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Ibrahim Ghawshah and Muhammad Nazzal, members of the political bureau of the Islamic Resistance Movement — Hamas, refused to meet 'Imad al-Faluji who expressed the desire to meet them when he came to Amman within the Palestinian National Authority delegation to the Amman economic summit.

The refusal by Ghawshah and Nazzal to meet al-Faluji is yet another sign that al-Faluji has effectively become an outcast with respect to Hamas after being one of its most prominent figures in the Gaza Strip.

The Hamas command in Gaza issued a short statement in Arabic and English announcing that 'Imad al-Faluji does not represent Hamas or its political stands and that he is not authorized to speak on its behalf.

The statement issued on 24 October said that Hamas which does not consider al-Faluji as one of its leaders, calls on the press not to identify him as one of its leaders, or as its spokesman. Hamas affirms that any media organ which does so after the issuance of this statement will lose all credibility.

Hamas To Use 'All' Means To Free Abu-Marzuq

MM0711114595 London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH in Arabic Nov 95 pp 19-20

[Interview with Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan, by Yasir al-Za'atirah; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Za'atirah] You were one of those who participated in the Khartoum meeting with the delegation from the Gaza Strip. We would like you to clarify to us the status of the this delegation. Was it a delegation representing the Hamas leadership, as claimed by the [Palestinian] Authority's circles, or a mediation delegation, as its members said?

[Nazzal] The delegation with which we met in Khartoum was a mediation delegation comprised of four well-known figures from the Gaza Strip. They launched a move some five months ago to try to reconcile the Authority and Hamas. The delegation believed that in order to make its endeavors a success, it was necessary to meet with a Hamas leadership delegation outside the occupied territories, and indeed a meeting was held in Khartoum.

[Al-Za'atirah] What were the results of the meeting?

[Nazzal] The main result of the meeting was the agreement to hold a meeting between the Authority and Hamas in Khartoum under the sponsorship of Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the Arab Islamic People's Congress. The mediation delegation is supposed to have conveyed that to the Authority's head, Yasir 'Arafat.

[Al-Za'atirah] So you agreed to a meeting and are awaiting the agreement of the other party, namely the Authority?

[Nazzal] Yes, we are awaiting the Authority's agreement.

[Al-Za'atirah] It is said that the Authority is seeking dialogue, but it could voice reservations about the venue, since the tension in political relations between Cairo and Khartoum could embarrass 'Arafat!

[Nazzal] Khartoum was chosen because of an invitation sent to the two sides by Dr. al-Turabi over four months ago. We could not respond to the invitation earlier because of the Authority's unjustifiable arrest of some Hamas leaders and symbols. At any rate, if the Authority has any reservations about the venue, we are waiting to hear this officially.

[Al-Za'atirah] It has been reported that a tacit agreement between Hamas and the Authority to suspend military action will be signed at the Khartoum meeting. What truth is there in this?

[Nazzal] There has been no agreement between Hamas and the Authority to suspend military action. All that has been said is merely rumors circulated by the Authority and its circles to cause confusion in the general atmosphere.

[Al-Za'atirah] It is clear that the Authority's program as regards dialogue centers on the suspension of military action, while Hamas is refusing to suspend military action, hence continuing the cycle of tension and convulsions in relations between the Authority and Hamas.

[Nazzal] If any dialogue is intended to be a success, it must not be subjected to any preconditions. We view the Authority's focus in the media on its demand for suspending military action as a kind of pressure and blackmail — which we do not accept. We informed the mediation delegation in Khartoum of our agreement to a dialogue with an open agenda and without any preconditions. All issues should be raised at the negotiating table, and we have the full courage to discuss them clearly and without hesitation.

[Al-Za'atirah] What is your opinion of the release of Dr. al-Zahhar and Shaykh Bahr? Can this step be considered part of a deal between the Authority and Hamas?

[Nazzal] The release of those held in the Authority's jails should not be subjected to the logic of deals, nor would we accept that. We believe that that step — albeit important — is not sufficient. Because the movement's leaders — Sayyid Abu-Musamih, Abu-Ayman Taha, and Salamah al-Safadi — are still held in the Authority's jails in very bad conditions. There are scores of other detainees. The Authority would be mistaken if it thought that by making such arrests it can affect the movement's strategic course vis-a-vis resisting the occupation. These arrests — despite their harshness and psychological effects — harm the Authority more than Hamas.

[Al-Za'atirah] The Oslo-2 agreement was signed on 28 September. The Authority considered it a historic achievement that strengthens its position on the ground and achieves progress, or a decline for the opposition. How do you view this agreement and its effects on Hamas' future, jihad, and relations with the Authority?

[Nazzal] The Oslo agreement has over the past two years raised more questions than the answers it provides. The Cairo agreement signed in May 1994 and the Taba agreement signed in September 1995 came to settle the controversy over the agreement, since it became clear that the "historic achievement" the Authority talks about offered nothing other than the redeployment of Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank, which has been turned into cantons separated from one another. It became clear that the promises made by the Authority's media were a mirage.

Contrary to what some people believe, we believe that the agreement has revealed to public opinion the truth about the Authority. If the Authority is imposing itself by force, namely through the occupation forces' support for it, this will not last long. Because the continuation of the occupation will prompt the Palestinian masses to stage a new intifadah against the occupation. It might take time, but not a lot of time. We believe that Hamas' continuity depends on the continuation of the occupation, which provides a fertile land and suitable ground for its continuation.

[Al-Za'atirah] Let us pause at military action. Is it going to continue, and what about the places from which it will be launched, especially in the light of redeployment in the West Bank?

[Nazzal] Military action is an integral part of Hamas' plan vis-a-vis resisting the occupation. It is a strategy linked to the disappearance of the occupation. As for the talk about the places from which it would be launched and things like that, these are technical matters to be determined by the military organ the "al- Qassam Battalions" in the light of field conditions and resources.

[Al-Za'atirah] The political party issue is one of the issues over which there have been conflicting views. What stage has been reached in this connection?

[Nazzal] That issue is a matter for the people who are behind the establishment of the political party. For our part, we took a decision through the movement's shura institutions, agreeing that the movement's elements and cadres wishing to join the political party to be set up can do so. As for proclaiming the party, forming its institutions, and defining its policy, that is the job of the party's committees, which are supposed to constitute a broad framework that includes Hamas members and independent Islamists not belonging to any organizational quarter. For our part, we wish this party and those in charge of it success. But we will not interfere in its affairs, whatever the proportion of Hamas supporters in it.

[Al-Za'atirah] Are we to understand that the political party will be a framework independent from Hamas?

[Nazzal] Yes, it is a political framework which will be established in the self-rule area. As for Hamas, it is a resistance movement which targets the occupation anywhere in the occupied homeland. We believe that the methods of a political party differ from those of a resistance movement.

[Al-Za'atirah] In the light of the Israeli Government's submission of the bill of indictment concerning Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, which contains nearly 1,000 pages, hence pushing the case into the labyrinths of continued postponement, how do you view these developments and how do you deal with them?

[Nazzal] Anyone who reads the 1,000 pages submitted to the U.S. Government will discover that the indictment was enlarged immensely as part of an Israeli tactic to influence the court and give the impression that there is a huge file against Dr. Musa. But the truth is that the file can be reduced to a maximum of 50 pages.

At any rate, it is clear that the issue has assumed serious dimensions in the light of the assignment of the case to a judge known for his racism against Arabs and Muslims and their issues, in addition to some of the practices applied when dealing with Dr. Musa, which conflict with human rights.

We in Hamas will continue our campaign at the political, informational, people's, and legal levels. We will continue to exert pressure on the U.S. Administration until Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq has been released.

[Al-Za'atirah] But can that pressure on the U.S. Administration have an effect? And if this pressure fails, would military strikes be launched against U.S. targets?

[Nazzal] Our duty necessitates that all possible means be exhausted to achieve the aim of securing the release of Dr. Musa. We are keen to limit [ourselves to] the circle of the conflict with the Zionist entity, and we should not be lured into moving outside this circle, since that would serve the interests of the enemy, who wants to divert us from the circle of conflict with him to other circles under different names. Perhaps Dr. Musa's arrest falls in this framework.

Abu-Marzuq: 'Fine' in New York Jail

MM0611160395 London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH in Arabic Nov 95 p 24

[Message sent by Musa Abu-Marzuq "from his prison cell in New York in reply to the chief editor's letter"; date not given: "Dawn Will Break, However Dark the Night"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God the merciful and the compassionate.

Thanks be to God the creator, the provider, the almighty with the sole power in heaven and on earth, and blissful prayers and peace be upon Muhammad, the master of all mankind, his family and his companions.

Dear brother and author Yasir,

Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you,

Your beautiful letter has arrived, may you reap good reward and may you be spared all evil, and may God keep you a treasure for the nation.... You hope for salvation and you await victory in defense of people who have been wronged and, with few supporters and refuge providers, people who have been fought with their own sword, their rights undermined in their own name, ousted from their land in the name of the cause, prevented from travel also in the name of the cause, prevented from work in preservation of the cause, and kept in shacks out of fear for the cause. So where are the supporters of the cause?

But you also belong to patient people who struggled for a century without fear, their faith and good sense sharpened. Hamas and the tidings of victory emerged with the patience. Salvation comes after pain and difficulty.

The (flourishing of evil), its turning good into evil and evil into good, with the feared repression or siege, or planes bringing destruction, all that will not change the fact that right and justice will prevail because the heavens and the earth were built on them. The judgment of a person with faith is different from that of others because he knows that his supporter and protector, not theirs, is God. "Whoever curses God will have no supporter." There is no supporter but God. Dawn will break, however dark the night, and the brightness of daylight will come, for the rotation of days is an unchangeable universal fact. "God's doctrine can never be changed."

Dear brother, you ask me to write. I have tried and have sent some [letters] but they were returned with the instruction not to try again, that despite the fact that they scrutinize the lines for any sign even if it is just a line under a phrase in a book or a line quoted from an article, and they add that to the case file. They advised that there should be no repetition. Your letter gave the chance to thank those who had written to me. My pure greetings and wishes of peace and prayers to them. Whenever I receive a letter I pray for its author with my sincere gratitude. God's reward will be greater.

As regards me, I am fine in God's grace, and why not? They have put me in a solitary cell, forgetting that, in the company of God, I cannot be lonely. What do they think? I am certain that there is good behind that evil. They cannot outwit God. "Remember how the unbelievers plotted against thee, to keep thee in bonds, or slay thee, or get thee out (of thy home). They plot and plan, and God too plans, but the best of planners is God."

Greetings and may God's peace and care be with you. Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

[Signed] Your brother Musa Abu-Marzuq
New York Room 95
[Dated] 17 September 95

Algeria

UN Observers Arrive To Monitor Elections

LD0611154395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A delegation of UN observers arrived this afternoon in Algiers to participate in monitoring the forthcoming presidential elections. [passage omitted]

The UN observers' delegation, which arrived in Algeria from Geneva, is made up of six members of the Egyptian, Jordanian, American, Irish, and Ethiopian nationalities.

The delegation is headed by Husayn Kamal, who carries out numerous tasks at the United Nations and in charge of the files of South Africa, and adviser at the Egyptian council of ministers.

Zeroual: Legislative, Local Elections To Follow

LD0411110895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The four candidates in the presidential elections are intensifying their field activities. While campaigning, Liamine Zeroual on 3 November presided over a meeting at the sports hall "Hammou Bou Tillis" [Phonetic] in Oran. There he urged all citizens to cast their votes on 16 November. These elections, according to him, will return legitimacy to the Algerian state. Zeroual pointed out that these elections will then be followed by legislative and local elections.

After a lengthy review of the crisis experienced in the country, candidate Zeroual stated that the Algerian citizens are the country's only capital asset and that the final decision lays with them. After the meeting, Zeroual and the representatives of the committees supporting him toured the main streets of the town in a festive atmosphere where the candidate was greeted by the people of the town. [passage omitted]

Candidates, Representatives Present Messages

LD0511221495

[FBIS Editorial Report] Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic at 1830 GMT on 5 November carries a new batch of election campaign broadcasts. A man called Bechir Adjaila speaks first, for eight minutes, about Said Sadi's view on the independence of the judicial system, state employees' pensions, teachers' incomes and standard of living, and the need to establish peace and stability in Algeria. Adjaila calls on Algerians to rally behind the security services and the army in pursuing terrorists and combating terrorism.

Next, Noureddine Boukrouh appears on screen for five minutes and appeals to those who are carrying arms against the nation and brothers to lay down their arms, as the reasons which have caused the crisis will be eliminated in the future. He says that the cancellation of the legislative elections is the reason behind the current crisis, and he has proposed the continuation of the elections process, but his proposal was not adopted by those in power. He tells those youths that, though they have targeted the powerful, they have inflicted damage on the poor, and that though they have targeted the authorities, they have caused damage to the state. He appeals to them to stop killing ordinary soldiers and gendarmes, because they are not responsible for the crisis and are members of Algerian society.

At 1843 GMT, Khalfah M'Barek, representing Zeroual, appears on screen for 17 minutes and attributes the crisis in Algeria to the effects of foreign media on Algerian youth, who have fallen under their influence, and spends the main bulk of his time talking about Zeroual's education program, including the teaching of the Amazight language and the development of academic research. He also stresses the importance of preserving and strengthening Algerian national identity and consolidating the national media.

Election Commission Statement on Violations

LD0611135995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The independent national commission for monitoring the presidential elections issued a statement in which it said that:

After the start of the election campaign, and after informing the candidates of the necessity to comply with the provisions of the law, the independent national commission for monitoring the presidential elections regrettably records some violations to the electoral law, particularly to its articles in connection with:

A. Banning the use of places of worship and basic and secondary education institutions for electioneering purposes;

B. Avoiding verbal violence practices;

C. Banning the use of foreign languages in the election campaign;

D. Adherence to the presidential candidate's signed pledge document, including:

1. Preserving national unity;

2. Not employing religion for partisan propaganda purposes.

In view of the national commission's authority to overlook the implementation of the electoral law and the observance of the ethics of the election campaign, it draws the attention of the candidates to the necessity to abide strictly by the provisions of the electoral law, and warns of the consequences of committing whatever might impede the good progress of the presidential elections.

Security Services Kill 11 'Terrorists'

LD0411131395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services said today that after receiving information about the presence of a terrorist group in El Djebs Forest in Constantine, the security forces rushed to the place and surrounded a hideout. After clashing with the group, they succeeded in killing eight terrorists and recovered a significant quantity of weapons and ammunition.

The security services also announced today that they killed two terrorists last Tuesday in Constantine.

The security forces killed another terrorist in Mostaganem and recovered an automatic rifle and ammunition.

Another 34 Killed

LD0511194495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A communique from the security services said that the security forces killed 34 terrorists in various operations between last Monday [30 October] and Friday [3 November] in the provinces of Medea, Tizi Ouzou, Boumerdes, M'sila, Algiers, Batna, Blida, Oran, Mascara, and El Oued. Fourteen of these "terrorists" were killed in Medea Province only.

The security forces were able to recover quantities of various weapons and ammunition. They found various documents and recovered a stolen vehicle. They were also able to destroy a number of hideouts.

Change in British Position on Islamists Expected

LD0611100195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It is expected that there will be a drastic change in the British position on Islamists who have been taking advantage of its liberal laws on political asylum to carry out terrorist acts. Sources have indicated that the [British] Home Office is currently drawing up proposals to tighten the anti-terrorism act and to give the security services further powers. Until recently, however, Britain refuted claims that it was a heaven for international terrorism and saw no justifaction in European and Arab concerns.

Nonetheless, the recent statements by the French police that one of the masterminds of the recent spate of the terrorist acts in France was living in London has prompted the British government to swiftly review its asylum laws; tighter anti-terrorism measures are expected to be introduced.

These measures are expected to ban fund-raising activities for terrorist movements and groups and the publication of pamphlets which have been inciting violence and criminal activities in Algeria. The new measures will also allow the prosecution of persons who use Britain to mastermind terrorist acts in a third country.

Egypt

Mubarak Returns Home After Rabin Funeral

NC0611203395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and the members of his delegation returned home this evening after a brief visit to Israel, during which he attended the funeral of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who was assassinated by an extremist Jew on 4 November.

While in Israel, President Mubarak held intensive talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton, Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman, Israeli acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, King Husayn of Jordan, and other world leaders who were at the funeral.

Muslim Brotherhood Spokesman Welcomes Rabin Death

BR0611134495 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 5 Nov 95 p 7

[Telephone interview with Muslim Brotherhood spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi by unidentified correspondent in Cairo on 4 November: "He Had al-Shaqaqi Killed; Allah Has Punished Him" — first paragraph is LA REPUBBLICA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Allah has punished him; it is the just punishment for the assassination of the leader of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Fathi al-Shaqaqi." The spokesman for the Egyptian Muslim brotherhood, the largest Islamic fundamentalist organization, was unambiguous in welcoming the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Rabin: "This is not peace; this is imperialism and injustice; so it is better to have war; it is preferable to secure our rights by means of force." By telephone from his home in Cairo, Ma'mun al-Hudaybi commented with satisfaction on the tragedy that has befallen Israel.

[LA REPUBBLICA] What is your assessment of Rabin's assassination?

[Al-Hudaybi] Rabin was a Jew, and the person who killed him was a Jew. It is something that does not concern us. However, as believers, we consider it a signs from Heaven, from which a lesson must be learned. Rabin decided on his own to assassinate the leader of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Fathi al-Shaqaqi, without even consulting his government. This is why Allah punished him. Above all, it was not even the first assassination ordered by Rabin. Some Arab countries now portray Rabin as a man of peace. The fact is that he was the representative of a country that was built on murder and terrorism. Who killed Count Bernardotte? Who blew up the King David hotel? Who massacred the Egyptian prisoners of war? Who killed Palestinians and deliberately broke their limbs? Israel does not want peace: It merely wants to the ensure the triumph of its own interests. What is the future of the millions of Palestinians dispersed in the refugee camps of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Libya? What is the future of the thousands of Palestinians of Gaza, forced to provide cheap labor for the Israeli economy? These Palestinians have no identity, no nationality, and no dignity. This is not peace: It is not even a fiction of peace.

[LA REPUBBLICA] Egyptian President Mubarak has announced that he will visit Jerusalem — for the first time in 16 years of power —to attend Rabin's funeral. Do you agree with this?

[Al-Hudaybi] Mubarak is responsible for his own actions. I have already said what I think about Rabin, Israel, and the so-called peace.

[LA REPUBBLICA] After Rabin's assassination, what do you think are the prospects for peace in the Middle East?

[Al-Hudaybi] This is the Pax Isreaeliana; it is Israel's interests that are at stake. This is an attempt to impose the imperialism and injustice of the Jews on us. They are not making us any concessions and want to take everything. So it is better to have war; it is preferable to secure our rights by means of force.

[LA REPUBBLICA] Does the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood support the activities of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad?

[Al-Hudaybi] We support the Palestinians' national liberation struggle, though we do not have any operational links with Hamad and the Jihad. Now everyone says that the land belongs to the Jews, but it is not true. The land belongs to the Palestinians, and they are entitled to use every available means to secure it. I cannot understands why the French or the Italians are patriots, whereas the Arabs are labeled terrorists.

Cases Against Rabin To Continue Against Peres

NC0611154395 Paris AFP in English
1458 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 6 (AFP)—A dozen court cases filed in Egypt against slain Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, demanding damages of more than a billion dollars, will continue against his successor Shim'on Peres, lawyers said Monday [6 November].

"Our case was listed against the prime minister of Israel, we didn't put Rabin's name specifically, so it is against whoever follows him," Hanan Subhi Shami told AFP.

Shami lodged a case against Israel in September claiming one billion dollars in compensation to the families of over 900 Egyptian POWs massacred by Israeli soldiers during the 1956 and 1967 wars. Her case is to continue December 12.

At least 10 other similar cases have also been filed for varying amounts, some by former prisoners of war and victims' families. Any of them listing Rabin specifically will have to rewrite the case, legal sources said.

Rabin was buried on Monday in the presence of world leaders after being shot at a peace rally two days earlier by a Jewish militant. Foreign Minister Peres was appointed acting prime minister.

"We will insert the new prime minister's name into our brief," another laywer, Mustafa Raslan, said. "We sued him as prime minister, not as a personal suit, so the case is handed over."

Raslan was suing Rabin to have the tomb of a famous rabbi, Yaacov Abu Hatzira, removed from his north Delta hometown of Damanhur and transfered to Israel to prevent it becoming a "new Wailing Wall" on Egyptian soil.

The Abu Hatzira tomb is a popular pilgrimage site that attracts large numbers of Orthodox Jews from Israel.

A Damanhur court will continue hearing his suit on November 25, Raslan said.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Visits

NC0511105595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1010 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—Senior Egyptian and Russian Foreign Ministry officials held talks in Cairo this morning. The Egyptian side was led by Ambassador Nabil Fahmi, political adviser to the foreign minister, and the Russian side by Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk, who is currently visiting Cairo.

The talks dealt with developments in the Middle East peace process and efforts to push it ahead, especially on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, and on Russia's role as a co-sponsor of the peace process.

The talks also dealt with efforts to solve the Bosnian problem in light of the current meetings in Washington under the sponsorship of the United States, Russia, and the European Union.

The talks also focused on ways to strengthen bilateral ties in all areas.

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives in Cairo, Meets Mubarak

NC0711094695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0925 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Nov (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo this morning from Gaza on a brief visit to Egypt during which he will meet with President Husni Mubarak. The two leaders will discuss developments in the peace process following the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and ways to give impetus to the peace process.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 0935 GMT on 7 November, in a Cairo-datelined item, adds: "President Husni Mubarak received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at the presidential office in Heliopolis this morning. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa."]

Mubarak Notes Difficult Road Toward Reconciliation

NC0611111695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1027 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak holds Iraq responsible for the predicament in which the Arab nation has found itself since Iraq occupied Kuwait. The president noted that Egypt's position on this issue is firm.

President Mubarak was answering a reporter's question about Arab reconciliation during a news conference that he held prior to his departure for Israel today. He remarked: Since the Gulf war ended, we have been looking for a formula by which we can ease the pressure on the Iraqi people. Mubarak noted that United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan presented his initiative with this objective in mind.

President Mubarak added: We have been promoting Arab reconciliation for a long time. Shaykh Zayid knows this.

The president pointed out that reconciliation is not an easy matter because it is difficult to forgive someone who enters your house, throws out your furniture, and kills your children. He noted that it is not easy in such circumstances to restore amicable relations in a short time.

President Mubarak reaffirmed that these events caused a major breach in the structure of Arab ties. He noted that everyone is seeking to heal wounds and hopes that some sort of reconciliation will be attained soon.

He said: Everyone wants reconciliation but the road is not easy.

War Industry Minister on Privatization, Production

NC0511101795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2010 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Muhammad al-Ghamrawi, Egyptian minister of state for war production, has stated that the war industry is primarily related to Egypt's sovereignty and security and therefore, any talk about privatizing it is rejected and not even raised for discussion.

In a statement published in the 5 November edition of AL-JUMHURIYAH, Dr. al-Ghamrawi stressed that the notion of shifting war production to civilian production is absolutely out of the question. All that is happening now is that, in view of the decreased demand for war products in Egypt and throughout the world, we are putting the unused facilities at war production companies to their optimum use, he noted. He added that none of the Egyptian war-production factories is manufacturing civilian products alone, adding that surplus facilities at these factories are used at specific times and for specific production lines and workshops to produce civilian products. However, he said, war production remains the main field.

Dr. al-Ghamrawi pointed out that the new five-year plan for war production in Egypt makes room for developing ammunition, particularly 155-mm artillery ammunition; as well manufacturing artillery, rocket artillery, and antiaircraft artillery. He noted that Egypt has obtained a license to manufacture the 120-mm barrel of the U.S. M1 tank, and production has already started. A study is now under way to manufacture a 155-mm self-propelled gun according to the needs of the Egyptian Armed Forces, particularly following the success in manufacturing the 120-mm self-propelled gun, he added, noting that Egypt's success in manufacturing special requests will open new horizons for the Egyptian war industry.

Dr. al-Ghamrawi noted that his ministry had opened new avenues for cooperation in joint war production with an African country. The Ministry of Defense and Ministry of State for War Production have begun studies and negotiations with the United States to take advantage of the facilities at the tank factory to conduct overhauls and maintenance for M1 tanks, introduce any updates or renovations to that type of tank, and manufacture some parts for some U.S. firms.

Oil Ties Discussed With South African Minister

NC0611154095 Cairo MENA in English
1440 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 6 (MENA)—Talks started here today between Egypt and South Africa on oil cooperation under the co-chairmanship of Minister of Petroleum Hamdi al-Banbi and South Africa's Minister of Energy Pik Botha.

The two sides reviewed bilateral relations in the oil industries domains and discussed means to promote those relations in the coming stage.

Botha noted the "fruitful" meeting with the Egyptian minister of petroleum and the atmosphere of joint cordiality and understanding prevailing the talks. He reiterated his country's appreciation for Egypt's favourable stance towards South Africa and its full support for her during her national struggle.

The South African energy minister is on a current visit to Cairo, leading a ranking delegation.

Pakistani Defense Minister Concludes Visit

N[illegible]11195995 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1900 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MEN)—Pakistani Defense Minister Aftab Shaban and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo this evening after a week-long visit. He was seen off at the airport by Field Marshal Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production.

Rifkind Warns 'Extremists' Residing in Britain

NC0411070595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0610 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—British Foreign Secretary Malcollm Rifkind has underlined Egypt's central role in the Middle East peace process. He said that Egypt's economic future will be greatly affected by this process. He noted that British companies are closely watching the Egyptian Government's measures to reform and liberalize the Egyptian economy.

In an interview in the 4 November edition of AL-AHRAM, the British foreign secretary explained that there is a constant dialogue between Egypt and Britain, especially in regard to the Middle East peace process. He described the assassination attempt against President Mubarak in Addis Ababa as despicable.

In the strongest official British remarks yet, Rifkind warned the extremists residing in Britain against exploiting Britain's traditions of freedom of expression and hospitability to violate laws or carry out violent acts. He expressed concern over the accusations that Sudan supports terrorism. He affirmed that Britain denounces terrorism anywhere in the world.

Rifkind, who on 5 November begins a tour of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia, said that real peace in the Middle East can only be achieved by the parties directly concerned. Foreign parties cannot be an alternative to direct contacts and relations among the regional parties. [passage omitted]

Official Defends Country's Democratic Process

MS0311151495 London THE GUARDIAN in English
3 Nov 95 p 16

[Letter by Ahmad al-Ibrashi, press counsellor at the Egyptian Embassy in London: "Polls and Goals"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The issues your diplomatic editor refers to (Brothers find Egyptian poll door barred, November 2) are considered a part of the democratic process which Egypt applies with the practice of a multi-party system. Of course, it would be far easier to resort to a totalitarian system; but, because Egypt adopts freedom of expression all voices can be heard, whatever their beliefs. Sometimes these voices exceed the legitimate limits of democracy by trying to impose their ideas on others, even to the point of force. When this happens it is the role of any government to protect its citizens' interests.

Egypt is recovering from a succession of wars and, though its population is increasing by 1 million children every 10 months, it is doing everything it can to restore economic stability.

Al-Qadhdhafi's Expulsion of Palestinians Denounced

NC0611181995 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 31 Oct 95 p 7

[Article by Sa'id 'Ukashah: "Al-Qadhdhafi will pay the price twice for his expulsion of the Egyptians and Palestinians from Libya"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, who seized power over 25 years ago, precisely in September 1969, has lived his life repeating that he seeks Arab unity—unity of the people before the unity of the regimes. Several times he has driven a bulldozer toward his borders with Egypt, Tunisia, and Sudan to smash the border gates and preach Arab unity despite the Arab rulers who, according to him, were and still are mere toys in the hands of the great powers. It is true that he has done weird things and has more than once expelled the nationals of Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia from his country, but he has never admitted that his acts completely conflict with his pan-Arab claims.

In fact, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has all the hallmarks of a selfish person. He is always prepared to break his declared principles for the benefit of his regime and not Libya. He usually gives strange justifications for his behavior.

For example, he decreed that the term "great" be added to Libya's name to become the "Great Socialist People's Libya Arab Jamahiriyah." His justification was as follows: Because the United States is a great power, because great powers do not engage in an armed struggle except with other great powers, and because the United States hit Libya in the Gulf of Sidra and launched air strikes against it in 1986, Libya in fact became a great power!

Another example: When the great powers in the Security Council imposed an embargo on his regime for its suspected involvement in the bombing of two civilian planes—one French and the other American (the Lockerbie case), al-Qadhdhafi realized that he badly needed Egypt to limit the sanctions and enable Libya to use the Egyptian border to transport commodities and services in the face of the blockade imposed around him. [passage omitted]

The colonel believes that his expulsion of the Egyptians and Palestinians will achieve two objectives:

1. Whipping the back of the Egyptians so they will act more intensively to lift the blockade on Libya. He believes that the expulsion of over 1 million Egyptians to Egypt will increase unemployment and exacerbate the security situation, which is already in a very bad shape in Upper Egypt.

2. Pushing the United States and Israel to bargain with him. He will stop expelling the Palestinians in return for a lifting of the blockade.

Clearly, the brother colonel is neither an Arab nationalist nor a shrewd politician. He has sacrificed his slogans and official titles (he calls himself custodian of Arab Nationalism) because he has decided to punish the Arab people and not the Arab regimes, which he despises. He has placed himself in the same trench with the great Zionist leaders, such as Jabotinsky, Shamir, and Menahem Begin, who called for terrorizing the Arab inhabitants and expelling them from Palestine so that the land would remain for the Jews alone. When the colonel succeeds in emptying Libya from Arab elements, he will only find Bulgarians and Czechs to replace Arab workers and technicians. [passage omitted]

The worse thing is that the colonel does not realize that he will pay dearly for his actions. In addition to the exposure of his false nationalist claims before the Arab people that he has deceived with his slogans and coarse voice on his beamed broadcasts, he will not get the gains he is expecting. The price that he has asked and that is represented by the lifting of the blockade will not be possible. Al-Qadhdhafi will be forced to stop the stupid policy of expulsions and will also be compelled to give in to the demands of the great powers for the extradition of the suspects in the Lockerbie incident. If he does not do this, the tightening of the siege on him will not be the only expected result. It will be followed by other results, the most important of which is the increasing potential for a popular explosion in Libya, an explosion that will bring a tragic end to his regime which has grown old. It has now become necessary to change this regime at any price.

Ummah Party Withdraws From Assembly Elections

NC0611150595 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 1 Nov 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Ummah Party yesterday decided to withdraw from the People's Assembly elections because of financial difficulties. Ummah Party leader Ahmad al-Sabahi stated that there was not equal opportunity between the Ummah Party candidates and the National Democratic Party candidates. [passage omitted]

University Students Call For Free Elections

NC0511154795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1422 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—Some 3,000 students staged a peaceful demonstration inside Cairo University campus today. The students gathered in front of the university's main building demanding that the People's Assembly elections be free and and calling on government officials to implement President Mubarak's instructions that there be no meddling in the elections. The students also called for more freedom and democracy. In a democratic scene they carried placards containing their demands.

Security forces guarded the roads leading to Cairo University to prevent external elements from infiltrating the students' ranks.

Labor Party Leader on Election Alliance

96LD0008A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Oct 95 p 7

[Report on interview with Ibrahim Shukri, head of the Labor Party, by Muhammad Salah in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Egypt's opposition Labor Party leader Engineer Ibrahim Shukri sees the government's measures against the banned Muslim Brotherhood [MB] as having been taken because the ruling party "knows that the MB is the power that can have a real effect on the outcome of the coming elections." He indicated that the government "had taken similar steps against the Labor Party in the past." In his view, the ruling party's objective in this regard was to "prepare the stage for the elections."

Shukri asserted, in an interview with AL-HAYAH, that the Islamic alliance between the Labor Party, the Liberal Party, and the Muslim Brotherhood still held, thus denying reports that the alliance had collapsed. "The alliance is not a luxury," he said, "but an objective matter. The MB believes in certain ideas and we believe in certain very similar ideas."

He asserted that the opposition parties' participation in the coming elections, after having boycotted the past elections of 1990, "was a sort of sacrifice we are offering the parties to do their duty."

Shukri confirmed his party's Islamic inclinations, saying, "Religion consists not only of rites of worship; three quarters of the Koran deals with conduct. Islam is a way of life and a lifestyle. We are not calling for a religious government as they say, nor are we saying the clergy should run things in the country, but we are saying that things should be run by people who are capable of understanding the country and can rule it."

The text of the interview follows:

[Salah] Does the Labor Party feel uneasy at the lack of government response to opposition demands to take steps to ensure the fairness of the upcoming parliamentary elections?

[Shukri] Every citizen feels uneasy at the events currently taking place in Egypt and fears for the future. The opposition's fears have mounted steeply in recent days, and there are reasons for that. We do not feel that things are moving in such a way as to lead to the practice of true democracy, upon which a stable government can be built. The opposition had its comments, which it set out in a letter to President Mubarak in June. We explained things and requested guarantees of the safety of the upcoming elections, but no one has responded to us.

In addition to all that, at the end of the legislative session, that obscene law, the one called Law 93, was enacted. I believe that law was not aimed at journalists so much as it was at the opposition parties, very specifically. Those parties have nothing but their newspapers through which to explain their views, to address the negative aspects of society or government practices. Do we have any other way? We are living with this Emergency Law in effect since 1981, according to which meetings of any kind are forbidden, as are marches. We are also deprived of the chance to get any time for presenting our program on radio or television. Therefore I see the aim of Law 93 as the restriction of the opposition, because others may have some other way, some alternate way of expressing their views.

[Salah] Most of the opposition parties and the MB boycotted the 1990 elections, but they have decided to take part in the coming elections despite the fact that the government has not acceded to their demands. On what basis did you make the decision to take part in the elections?

[Shukri] When we boycotted the past elections, the opposition had more than 100 seats in the People's Assembly, among the Wafd, Labor, and Liberal parties, in addition to the MB. Even so, we boycotted the elections because as we saw it 100 seats did not permit us to engage in real politics. The ruling party did not consult with us when it made decisions in parliament. The laws and resolutions were made by the majority; they had 356 seats. We expressed our view on all resolutions and let no discussion go by without taking a position in it, but the National Party-owned media did not present the view we had expressed in parliament to the public. (...) That was one aspect of the image the ruling party wanted, that we should be completing a picture in which the government appears wholly integrated, majority and opposition. The truth of the matter is that the opposition never truly took part in the political system, so we said, "Let's try boycotting the elections," and everyone who had won in the 1987 elections boycotted them. In some other country, one that respected the practice of democracy, this step would have had an effect on the ruling party, and it would have been keen for matters not to get that far; it would have tried to come close to some of the demands made by the opposition. That did not happen, as if they found this to be something they could use to their advantage. The recent assembly came, with a mere 20 members representing a small part of the opposition view, and some independents, versus 436 members of the National Party.

I believe our participation this time is a sort of sacrifice we are offering the parties for doing their duty. This people, shackled by the Emergency Law for nearly 15 continuous years, is worthy of our making a sacrifice for them. The question has grown bigger than the issue of participation or boycott. We must play our role as long as we have dedicated ourselves to public work.

[Salah] It has been remarked that the Labor Party program for the upcoming elections left out the Islamic program. Does that reflect disputes with the MB?

[Shukri] During the elections in 1984 and 1987, we proposed an electoral program and our program for the upcoming elections tries to offer solutions to the problems of society, such as unemployment, the spread of corruption in many aspects of government administration, and poor education, in addition to the economic problem Egypt is enduring, given new threats such as the GATT accord and the Middle East market. (...) The same party's program is based on Islamic principles, and the electoral program makes as effort to offer solutions to urgent problems. We are keen for our electoral program to be part of the general Islamic framework.

[Salah] Some people think the Islamic alliance in the upcoming elections is not in itself capable of the consent and adherence it had in 1987.

[Shukri] We entered into the 1987 elections with this alliance, as there was a need for it to be that way; the elections held that year in accordance with the list system, whereas the upcoming elections will be held according to the individual circle system. We will coordinate closely in the Islamic alliance in the coming elections, as the alliance is part of one framework that believes that "Islam is the solution." This was the slogan that stirred up some people and seemed to suggest leading to mixing of religion and politics, or introducing religion into public work; they do not understand Islam, for religion is not only rites of worship; three quarters of the Koran deals with conduct. Islam is a way of life and a lifestyle. We are not calling for a religious government as they say, nor are we saying the clergy should run things in the country, but we are saying that things should be run by people who are capable of understanding the country and can rule it, who know how to pay close attention to what they can do. The history of Islam is filled with examples one could speak of; as to those who want to mingle matters, they use those expressions in an attempt to discredit us. We say to them, "We know our people; they are a believing people, Muslims and Copts, and they are believers who know their acts will be overseen by the very best people we can find to give responsibility to, because they will deal with them accord to the extent they deal with God."

[Salah] How do you assess the measures the MB has been subjected to over the past months?

[Shukri] The measures taken against the MB in the past were preceded by other measures taken against the Labor Party. All that was preparatory to the elections. The ruling party knows very well that the MB, by the nature of its people, and the fact that they have endured difficult circumstances over the long years, has at the end of the day been able to follow their way of life in such as way as to practice what Islam requires of them. The MB has, since the establishment of the group, always been present in our society by virtue of its close contact with people during the five prayers. They have become the closest of all groups or organizations when it comes to reaching people, and so they have always had an influence on public opinion. This is why they are being pressured before the coming elections. They are the power that can have a real effect on the outcome of the elections. In all simplicity, this was the reason for the measures taken against the parties. The government had in the past taken similar steps against the Labor Party, even though it is a legal and acknowledged party, which exists openly. The Labor Party was attacked before the attack on the MB, with the aim of preparing the stage for the elections.

[Salah] Isn't it possible to arrive at a meeting point between the government and the Islamic tendency?

[Shukri] We hope so, but the Islamic tendency, whether inside the Labor Party or in the MB, is targeted. (...) We as an Islamic movement boycotted the 1990 elections and five years passed in which they were completely relaxed about us in the People's Assembly. They found that the parliament, without the Islamic tendency, was "wonderful," and wondered why all the representative councils shouldn't be without opposition? The ruling party in Egypt is trying to get rid of all active elements that oppose it, and that is regrettable.

[Salah] The trial of 49 MB leaders in the Military Court will affect the group's ability to compete electorally.

[Shukri] I am not one of the pessimists who are saying that it all hangs on specific individuals. (...) I have great hope and faith in Egypt's ability to transcend this matter and the ordeal of the upcoming elections. We all hope that they will transpire better than any others have so far.

[Salah] The past period has shown the contradictions among the parties and the major political opposition forces to the extent that they failed to agree upon a proposed national reconciliation document with which to confront the ruling National Party. What is your comment?

[Shukri] The idea of a national reconciliation document was a good one, but discussions showed that the details sought by some would have required a long time to resolve and agree upon. For example, during the discussion on the subject of education, the Nasirites asked that there be no meddling with free education, while other parties thought that free education should be limited to the primary grades. After that, it would be the right only of those who excel to enjoy free education. Also, the document at the outset did not refer in any way whatsoever to the state religion being Islam, and the Islamists did not accept that. We found many matters requiring discussion and debate, and they agreed that discussion and debate should continue after the elections.

[Salah] What are the boundaries at which the opposition parties meet?

[Shukri] At the present time, one may consider the letter the opposition leaders sent President Mubarak last June, in which they set out their demands to guarantee the fairness of the elections, to be a general framework of what the opposition has agreed upon. The issue of the elections is the issue with which we are trying to obtain concessions and reforms. I say it is silly for us to oppress ourselves and to give the ruling National Party even more opportunities than the many, comprehensive, and broad opportunities they actually possess and enjoy, from President Mubarak's presence at the top of the party to his control of all the media, in addition to his holding the elections in the state of emergency.

Correction to Mubarak on Embassy Move, Elections

NC2910190695

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Mubarak on Embassy Move, Elections, Economy" published in the 30 October Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT on pages 28-31:

Page 28, column two, paragraph six, line one make read: [Correspondent, in English] Mr. President, the U.S. Congress voted for the transfer of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. How would this affect the Middle East peace process?

[Mubarak, in English] Very sorry to [words indistinct] the resolution of the U.S. Congress in a very sensitive time, just after the signature about the second phase between the Palestinians and the Israelis and secondly it is not in the interest of the next stage to do such a thing in this specific period of time. It's not in its interest. It's not in the interest of the peace process and I am sure that the President of the United States of America realizes this very much.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, what effect will the U.S. Congress' approval to transfer the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem have on Amman's economic summit... (supplying new material)

Libya

Clinton's Statement on Lockerbie Suspects 'Serious'

LD0711090795 Tripoli JANA in English
0826 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, 7 Al Harth (Nov) — JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Great Jamahiriyah mission to the U.N. has distributed the following statement concerning the speech of the American President on the occasion of setting up a memorial statue for the Pan Am victims.

The American President said in his speech at the memorial statue of the Pan Am crash victims, over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988 that the U.S. will continue its actions to bring the accused Libyans to justice and that sanctions and pressures will be maintained against Libya to surrender the two criminals.

The American President description of the two suspects as criminals is highly serious, as the American President is the highest authority. It means that he is condemning them even before trial. That is enough reason for the two accused to refuse standing trial in the U.S. or Scotland, as the prejudgment has been passed.

By making such statement, the American President is giving credence to what Libya fears most. These fears were indicated by the lawyers who said that the two suspects shall not receive fair trial either in the U.S. or in Scotland, because they are already condemned even before justice is established.

The other nations of the world, particularly members of the Security Council, should become aware of the extent of the strength of the Libyan alibi in refusing to surrender its nationals. The Security Council is now required, more than any other time, to issue a resolution to lift the sanctions unfairly imposed on Libya. It has to demand the U.S. and Britain to accept immediately the trial of the two suspects in a third neutral country, or accept the Arab League proposal to try the two suspects in the I.C.J in The Hague.

That is the least action to be taken by the Security Council, which has been charged by the General Assembly to maintain international peace and security. It is irrational for a state to surrender its nationals for another state which had already condemned the suspects, before any trial. That is a stark violation of human rights and international legitimacy.

Even though the American Administration tries to use the sentiments of the victim families, we will not engage in such cheap provocations. We will continue our cooperation with international and regional organisations. We will defend our actions seeking the arrival at a fair settlement for this dispute, by peaceful means, away from threats or warnings, to ensure the establishement of [word indistinct], to serve the interests of the victims and to serve the interests of Libyan Arab people as well as international peace and security.

Al-Qadhdhafi Holds Talks With Ugandan President

LD0511002095 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The brother leader of the revolution received Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni after his arrival in the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

President Museveni made a statement to JANA in which he said:

[Begin Museveni recording, in English with superimposed Arabic translation] I will hold bilateral talks with my brother Colonel al-Qadhdhafi on African problems and all bilateral matters. [end recording]

A closed meeting was held between the brother leader of the revolution and President Museveni.

UN Delegate Supports Lifting Cuba Embargo

LD0311193395 Tripoli JANA in English 1758 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, 3 al-Harth [Nov] JANA — The Great Jamahiriyah has confirmed its support for the efforts made by the U.N. General Assembly with the aim of lifting the economic and financial embargo imposed by the American Administration against Cuba.

The resident delegate of the Great Jamahiriyah in the United Nations stated in a speech to the General Assembly that all liberal and freedom-aspiring nations throughout the world reject the American policy of arrogance, starvation and killing of children and elderly, with the aim of imposing domination and control over nations.

The Great Jamahiriyah resident legate confirmed that the policy of the American Administration against Cuba is not a unique case but it is the continuation of a constant policy against many countries around the world, including the Great Jamahiriyah, against which America has imposed economic sanctions, renewd twice annually, since 1986.

The delegate indicated that these measures prevent American companies from any dealings with the Great Jamahiriyah, ban Libyan students from following higher studies in American universities, and freeze Libyan assets in American banks. He indicated that these economic measures came as a result of unbelievable pretexts, that Libya poses a threat to American national security.

He added that if one is astonished for the American Administration acts towards the Cuban people, who adopted with their own volition their political and economic system, then it is rather naive to believe the claim that Libya poses a threat for American national security. How would a small nation of limited resources, like Libya, become a source of threat for any other country, let alone the most powerful country in the world, America, which is thousands of kilometres away.

He revealed that the truth is exactly the opposite. it is Libya which had been the subject of American threats and harassments. [Words indistinct] hospitals, killing and maiming scores of women and children. When that aggression failed to achieve its purposes, America created a further problem and accused Libyan nationals of being behind it. It used the Security Council to pass unfair sanctions against the Great Jamahiriyah. The American Administration rejected all Libyan initiatives to solve the so- called Lockerbie crisis, within the framework of the competent institutions and in accordance to appropriate international treaties such as the Montreal Convention in respect of civil aviation safety for 1971.

The Great Jamahiriyah resident delegate in the U.N. confirmed that the Great Jamahiriyah which appreciates fully the Cuban people's suffering, supports any moves by the General Assembly towards lifting the embargo imposed on Cuba, in line with the principle of peaceful settlements for disputes between states, in accordance to the U.N. Charter, particularly Article 2 of the charter.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Declares Nation on 'Right Track'

EA0411154095 Khartoum SUNA in English
1000 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 3 Nov (SUNA) — The Sudan will never back away from consolidating Islam and building the ideal Islamic state for which all the Muslims in the world aspire, despite the enemies [and] seditious moves in neighboring countries, President al-Bashir reiterated Thursday [2 November].

The statement was given by the president, 'Umar al-Bashir, while addressing the celebrations held at Shiqaylab area, Jabal Awliya province, on the occasion of educating 20,000 women in koranic subjects and interpretation.

The attempts of the enemies of Islamic orientation, including [the] suspension of funds and information campaigns accusing Sudan of harbouring terrorism, [the] spreading [of] rumours of famines [and] allegations of violations of human rights were also intended to impede Sudan's pursuance of Islamic orientation, the president said.

President al-Bashir went on to say that we were aware that our way was full of hazards and calamities, but our enemies' stance proves we are on the right track.

The collaboration against Sudan was not a retaliation against aggression, but because we have adhered to Islam and refused to acquiesce to no one but Allah, al-Bashir said.

Governor on Improving Ties With Uganda

EA0411185895 Khartoum SUNA in French
1000 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alfola, western Sudan, 4 Nov (SUNA) — Retired General Salah al-Ghali, the West Kordofan State governor, has reaffirmed that Sudan is making efforts to improve relations with neighboring countries, including Uganda which has adopted a policy of double standards toward Sudan.

In a comment on the recent Ugandan position, he said that Uganda is working toward the implementation of the plots prepared by some quarters against Sudan. One must react toward the country in kind, he stressed, saying that it had respected neither the mediation efforts nor the agreements made with Sudan.

Banks Donate 1 Billion Pounds to Armed Forces

EA0411173395 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic
1415 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 4 Nov (SUNA) — The Sudanese Union of Banks has donated the sum of one billion [Sudanese] pounds to support the armed forces defending the faith and the homeland.

This was stated when Brigadier 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn met union officials and bank managers today within the framework of summoning all [word indistinct] efforts to defend the faith and the homeland.

It is worth mentioning that following Uganda's aggression against the south last week, the popular forces and organizations concerned with the defense of the faith and the homeland have been called up [istunfirat].

Army Said Capable of Repelling Ugandan Attack

EA0611132595 Omdurman National Unity Radio
in 1730 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The defense minister, Lieutenant General Hassan 'Abd-al-Rahman, has said that Sudan will not act in a hostile manner toward neighboring states or interfere in their internal affairs. In an address to political and people's leaders, he touched on the subject of the conspiracy against Sudan to destroy Islam, led by imperialism, which is using some neighboring states for this end. The defense minister also reviewed the National Salvation Revolution's achievements in all areas. He confirmed that the Armed Forces are capable of ensuring security along the internal front, and of repelling the Ugandan regime's attack on the country.

Army Spokesman on Museveni's Agenda in Cairo

EA0411200995 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic
1510 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 4 Nov (SUNA) — Reports reaching us from Cairo reveal that the head of the Ugandan regime, Yoweri Museveni, has held talks in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, with the Egyptian regime's head, Husni Mubarak, within the framework of the former's three-day visit to Egypt.

AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH newspaper, published today, said that radio London [BBC] had quoted the Egyptian regime's interior minister, Hasan al-Alfi, as saying that Museveni and Mubarak had denounced terrorist acts in the region and discussed ways and means of combating them. The radio added that it was likely that the Egyptian regime's head and his Ugandan counterpart discussed the deterioration of relations between the Sudanese Government and the Ugandan regime.

The Sudanese Armed Forces' official spokesman did not rule out the fact that the visit by the Ugandan regime's head to Cairo could be for the purpose of coordination between the two regimes to support the rebel movement, which is being exploited as a tool by the anti-Sudan circles.

Health Minister on Cooperation With Iran

LD0511221595 Tehran IRNA in English 2022 GMT 5 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, Sudan, Nov. 5, IRNA — Sudan's health minister, Galwak Deng Garang, told Iran's ambassador to Khartoum, Mehdi Marvi, here Sunday that his country would shortly cooperate with Iran in all areas of health services the results of which, he said, would be publicized for the people of both countries.

He said his recent visit to Tehran in his meetings with Iran's public health minister, 'Ali Reza Marandi, had been very fruitful. The Iranian ambassador and the Sudanese minister in Khartoum Sunday also visited Khatamol-Ambia' Hospital.

The Islamic Republic has set up a rural clinic in the outskirts of Khartoum and another clinic in Khartoum in aid to the people of Sudan.

Bahrain

Amir, Prime Minister Confer With Pelletreau

JN0511125495 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0715 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 5 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the prime minister, this morning received Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs.

Pelletreau conveyed to his highness the amir U.S. President Bill Clinton's warm greetings and best wishes of continued progress and prosperity for Bahrain. Their highnesses the amir and the prime minister welcomed the U.S. official and lauded the strong relations between both friendly countries and peoples.

Their highnesses also expressed satisfaction with the growing bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation in various fields. They stressed Bahrain's interest in enhancing the scopes of cooperation with the United States.

Moreover, their highnesses hailed the wise policy the U.S. president is pursuing to maintain security and stability in the region and entrench security and peace in the world.

During the meeting, the conferees reviewed the latest Gulf and Arab developments, including the Middle East peace process, as well as other international issues of mutual interest.

The U.S. official briefed their highnesses on the results of the Amman economic summit and his tour of some states in the region. Pelletreau expressed profound thanks and appreciation for their highnesses the amir and the prime minister for their directives on consolidating the mechanisms of cooperation and coordination between Bahrain and the United States. He also commended Bahrain's wise policy in terms of enhancing security and stability in the region. [passage omitted]

Pelletreau Makes Statement, Departs

JN0511130595 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0845 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 5 Nov (WAKH)—Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, left Manama for Oman today after a two-day visit to Bahrain as part of a regional tour. He was sent off by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ghazi Muhammad al-Qusaybi and U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain David Ransom.

In a predeparture statement to WAKH, the U.S. official expressed thanks and appreciation to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, and His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister of Bahrain, for their warm welcome. He described as fruitful and constructive his meeting with their highnesses, and said that they discussed several issues, including the latest developments in the region and bilateral relations.

Pelletreau emphasized the depth of relations between Bahrain and the United States which are based on common interests and mutual respect. He pointed out that they also reviewed a number of Arab regional issues, including the Middle East peace process, and issues of common interest.

Prime Minister on Shura Experiment, Security Issues

MM0611144695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Nov 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Bari'ah 'Alam-al-Din: "Security Tops Our Priorities"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bahrain — In an interview with AL-HAYAH at the prime minister's office in Manama yesterday, Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah said that the Shura [consultative] Council experiment "is being developed on the basis of our experience, circumstances, and special needs."

Shaykh Khalifah said: "We in Bahrain do not import the experiments of others. We follow the line of our true religion, culture, and civilization from which we derive our political and social concepts. On that basis, the work of the Shura Council will be developed to ensure more participation in the political decisionmaking process."

The Bahraini prime minister added that "the council includes some of the best sons of this country who are serving it with sincerity and dedication. They have qualities and capabilities of which we are proud and they represent the hopes and aspirations of the people, reflecting a sincere desire for the progress of society and the fulfillment of the people's aspirations."

In reply to a question about the Gulf summit scheduled to be held early next month in Muscat, Shaykh Khalifah said: "We operate in the context of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. We in the Arab Gulf states are brought together by the same special social and cultural unity aspects and we build our policies in accordance with that harmony and accord." He added: "We look forward to that summit as an addition to the previous achievements made at GCC summits. We are confident that the results will have a positive effect on the GCC peoples and states."

On the economic situation, the Bahraini prime minister said: "The government program's priorities include work to increase the rate of economic growth, open new horizons for foreign investments, improve the level of services, and increase production and work opportunities to absorb new graduates so that everyone will contribute to the building and reconstruction process we seek."

He added: "There are continuing government plans for training Bahraini workers and encouraging foreign investment in Bahrain to enhance economic development."

Answering a question about the link between security and stability and attraction of investments, Shaykh Khalifah said: "There can be no doubt that security is an essential and important element for attracting investments and encouraging foreign capital investment in various projects in the country. That is why we place security and stability at the top of our priorities to create the right atmosphere for economic development to promote new work opportunities and provide the means of dignified life for the public."

Saudi Arabia

King Praises Development Plans at Council Meeting

LD0611184195 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1735 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 6 Nov (SPA) — King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, has said that "the successive development plans have proved the importance of industrialization as one of the basic factors in diversifying the production base and increasing the contribution of the private sector in the development operations, in developing the Saudi youth, and in laying down a firm technical base."

May God preserve him, the king praised the characteristics of the industrial sector in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, pointing out that through this sector, the framework of Saudi industry has been formed to include three sectors — the petrochemical industries, the oil refining industry, and the other processing industries.

The beloved king added that, "proceeding from this, the petrochemical sector constitutes the cornerstone of industrial development in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

This was said during a meeting this afternoon of the Council of Ministers, presided by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, at al-Salam Palace in the town of Jeddah.

In a statement to SPA after the meeting, His Excellency Information Minister Dr. Fu'ad Bin-'Abd-al-Salam al-Farisi said that the custodian of the two holy mosques dealt with the oil refining sector and described it as working toward strengthening industrial exports. [passage omitted]

On an external level, the Government of the custodian of the two holy mosques expressed its satisfaction with the negotiations which began on 31 October 1995 at a military base in the American state of Ohio, with the aim of ending the sufferings of Bosnia-Herzegovina from the war imposed on them by the Serb aggressors. The custodian of the two holy mosques pointed out that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hopes that Bosnia will be able to return to its previous state as a country enjoying peace and stability.

On the Gulf, the custodian of the two holy mosques praised the results brought about by the meetings of the 57th session of the GCC Ministerial Council, attended by the GCC ministers of finance and oil, which were held in the Omani capital of Muscat at the beginning of this week in order to prepare for the GCC's 16th summit. [passage omitted]

Minister Reviews Oil Policy, Achievements

LD3110172495 Riyadh SPA in English
1240 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Oct 31, SPA — Saudi Arabia's oil policy focuses on maintaining secure supplies to consuming countries while stabilizing world oil markets as its cumulative production amounted to more than 71 billion barrels from inception to date, according to Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources 'Ali al-Nu'aymi.

Al-Nu'aymi made these observations in a key-note address recently before the second annual meeting of U.S.-Saudi Arabian business council in Riyadh, which dealt in a comprehensive manner on Saudi Arabia's oil and mineral policy that seeks to maintain the viability of oil as a long-term source of energy. The annual meeting ended its deliberations at Intercontinental Hotel Riyadh two days ago.

"Saudi Arabia's vast oil reserves, equivalent to 26 per cent of the world's total, have facilitated the build-up of sizeable production capacity, currently equivalent to 10 mbd. As a result, Saudi Arabia has become the world's largest oil exporter during the last 20 years, as well as the largest oil producer since 1993.

"Saudi Arabia, in the process of utilizing and exporting oil at such high levels, has undoubtedly gained substantial economic benefits which are crucial to its economic and social developments. These benefits are highlighted by the sizeable contribution of the oil sector to the Saudi GNP (Gross National Product), a share currently standing at about 37 per cent. In earlier years, the share of the oil sector in Saudi's GNP ranged between 65 per cent to 75 per cent," al-Nu'aymi said.

"The current achievement in industry, agriculture, transport, communications, trade and other services bear witness to the rapid pace of development in this country," al-Nu'aymi said.

He noted that the kingdom's oil policy is compatible with and motivated by the long life expectancy of its oil reserves.

Al-Nu'aymi said the kingdom has adopted a free market stance under which long term signals of underlying forces of supply and demand can be more transparently discerned.

Highlighting the kingdom's efforts to meet world oil requirements through a market-oriented mechanism, al-Nu'aymi referred to the kingdom's joint ventures with refining and marketing companies in a number of countries including USA, South Korea, the Philippines and Greece. "For Saudi Arabia, these ventures bring about long-term access to markets. Integration downstream further provides the opportunity of bringing a geographically remote source of supply closer to consuming country markets," he said.

Al-Nu'aymi also noted the process of direct ownership of a tanker fleet sizable enough to carry as much of the kingdom's oil as possible. "By October 1995, the kingdom's tanker fleet comprised 23 crude oil tankers of ULCC and VLCC size and four product tankers."

On the domestic level, al-Nu'aymi said four refineries were built and renovated with a total capacity of about 700,000 b/d, adding that the kingdom built three more refineries with foreign partners with a capacity of about a million b/d, which are designed for export market.

Noting the kingdom's natural gas reserves of 186 trillion cubic feet, he said the kingdom consumes locally about 2.5 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas and exports over 700,000 barrels per day of LPG and natural gasoline. "Our policy in this area is to continue meeting local demand for fuel and feedstock from the light end gasses and export the heavy end of the gas streams as liquids."

Affirming that Saudi Arabia is still a developing country despite its richness in hydrocarbon resources, al-Nu'aymi said consuming countries are gaining a higher share from the ultimate value of the oil a barrel than the kingdom does. "During the current decade, consuming countries have on average obtained a share of 70 per cent from the value of the oil barrel, which sharply contrasted with our share of 30 per cent. In 1994, the share of consuming countries has increased to about 83 per cent, of which 64 per cent is accruing to governments and the remaining 19 per cent accruing to the oil industry. Our share had consequently deteriorated to about 17 per cent. This sharp disparity in benefits came about as a result of a 95 per cent rise in sales taxes imposed by the industrialized countries on oil consumption since 1985. In the same period, crude oil prices have declined by about 45 per cent," al-Nu'aymi said.

Al-Nu'aymi said "We shall continue our efforts to conduct meaningful dialogues with industrialized countries with a view towards persuading them to reverse their taxation policies and adopt economic policies which are more compatible with the new world trends."

Dealing with the domain of mining policy and activities, al- Nu'aymi said no less than 4,000 reports, studies and maps about geology and mining in Saudi Arabia had been prepared so far.

Six hundred exploitation permits and leases for industrial minerals have been awarded throughout the kingdom. They comprised concessions for cement, ceramics, pottery, gypsum, marble, granite, sand and gravel, he added. The number of industrial projects utilizing these materials in Saudi Arabia reached 400 by 1994, representing 20 per cent of Saudi industrial projects in the kingdom. They employ about 35,000 workers and the aggregate capital investment in them by the private sector is in excess of SR 17 billion, he said.

Al-Nu'aymi highlighted the government's encouragement for private investments in the exploitation of metallic minerals in the kingdom.

He said huge reserves of eight billion tons of phosphates in the north and north western regions constituted a solid base for Saudi Arabia to become a substantial producer and exporter of the phosphates in the world market. "It is well known that Saudi Arabia is already one of the leading exporters of fertilizers. The potential for utilizing locally produced phosphates will consolidate the Saudi position in this respect."

Dealing with oil and trade relations between Saudi Arabia and the United States, al-Nu'aymi said Saudi-American economic relations are "multifarious, cordial and firm."

"Economic cooperation covers many areas, especially oil, manufactured goods and investments," he said.

The value of U.S. oil imports from Saudi Arabia has grown from about four billion U.S. dollars in 1983 to about eight billion dollars in 1993, representing an average growth rate of eight per cent per year, al-Nu'aymi added.

By 1995, he said the number of American companies that entered into joint ventures in Saudi Arabia reached 222. The total investment in these projects amounted to 12 billion U.S. dollars, accounting for 41 per cent of total investment projects executed jointly with foreign capital. Most of them were industrial projects including refining, petrochemicals, lubricants and services, he said.

British Foreign Secretary Arrives in Jeddah

LD0611225595 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
2220 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 6 Nov (SPA) — His excellency Malcolm Rifkind, the British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, arrived in Jeddah tonight.

He was greeted at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, Dr. Ghazi al-Qusaybi, the Saudi ambassador to the United Kingdom, Ambassador 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Nuwaysir, the head of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Ahmad Muhammad Mu'minuhu, the director general of the Foreign Ministry section in the Western Region, a representative of Royal Protocol and David Gore Booth, the British ambassador to the Kingdom.

Yemeni Officials Highlight 'Fraternal Relations'

LD0611224795 Riyadh SPA in English
1938 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [no dateline as received] A number of Yemeni ministers and literary men have highlighted the existing fraternal relations between the Kingdom and Yemen.

In statements published by Jeddah-based AL-BILD today, they lauded the Kingdom's educational and cultural plans.

Yemeni minister of culture and tourism Dr Yahya al-Arshi said cultural relations between the two countries have remarkably developed.

For his part, Dr Abu Bakr al-Kurba, the former Yemeni minister of education, praised the support extended by the Kingdom to Yemen.

He noted that the recent visit of Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to the Kingdom would have a positive impact on bilateral relations.

On the other hand Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Mikalih, the president of Sanaa University said the Kingdom and Yemen are linked with deep-rooted and historical relations.

Shura Chairman Summarizes 'Fruitful' PRC Visit

LD0511223795 Riyadh SPA in English
1940 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Nov 5, SPA — The Shura Council held its regular meeting here today under the chairmanship of Shaykh Mohammed Bin-Jubayr, the chairman of the Council.

At the beginning of the meeting, Shaykh Bin-Jubayr briefed the Council on the outcome of his recent official visit to the Peoples Republic of China and his talks with the senior Chinese officials. He termed his talks with the Chinese leaders on the bilateral relations as fairly good and fruitful and added that the Saudi delegation made the Chinese side acquainted with the successful experience of the Kingdom on Shura field and the unique increase in development being witnessed by the Kingdom.

The Council resumed discussion on trade names, projects of the first three years of the fifth development plan which were submitted by the Ministry of Planning. It also reviewed a number of items on the agenda.

Daily Criticizes Amman Economic Economic Summit

JN0311214795 Al-Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic
30 Oct 95 p 33

["Highlights" column by Jasir 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasir: "Normalization Windows"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is against all natural laws and justice that a peasant reaps from a usurped field more than he reaps from his own plot of land. Logic says that those who harvest the field should first plant it. What we see in the Middle East now is that the Arabs pay more than what they get, and that Israel nearly pays nothing to get everything. To be more accurate, Israel got what it wants — its recognition as a state in the Middle East region. Before it completed its withdrawal from the smaller half of Palestine and before returning the Golan Heights to Syria it became an established fact in the region, whose leaders most of the countries in the region do not object to receiving. Yesterday, Yitzhaq Rabin, was the happiest of men while delivering Israel's speech at the Amman economic summit, a summit which according to my humble opinion is a political and economic event that is still premature. Why so?

Simply because the summit seeks to pay a price to Israel before the latter offers what it should offer within the peace equation that was formulated at the Madrid summit and during the peace negotiations on their various tracks. Israel realized the peace requirements with Jordan, and, before it, with Egypt. It received security, peace, and normal relations in return for Jordanian and Egyptian territories. It still procrastinates in returning the Syrian territories, and plays cat and mouse with the Palestinians. Israel still has to settle many Palestinian bills. Those who monitor the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations will notice that the Israelis have not returned East Jerusalem to the Palestinians and will never do so, and that the Israelis do their best to judaize Jerusalem. They step up settlement activities in the city of Jerusalem to alter its identity and demography, and they coordinate with the Zionist supporters abroad to close in on the Palestinians and give an international cover to the usurpation of the entire city. The recent U.S. Congress decision to transfer the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem is just a pressure card to impose the Israeli annexation of Jerusalem on the Arabs. We regret to say that we, the Arabs, submit to this political, geographical, and demographic reality and divest ourselves of one of our most important pressure cards.

What we and the beginners in politics know is that what is important to Israel and what it wants is to be accepted by its Arab neighbors and to be dealt with as one of the states in the region. This is what they call normalization, although it would be more appropriate to call it submission to the fait accompli of accepting this alien body in our midst.

By opening all the windows to normalization with Israel we weaken or paralyze the most important weapon the Arabs can use for regaining their right. Yesterday, one of the most important of these windows was opened.

If normalization with Israel is a must, then this should not take place before it returns our Arab lands and takes its hands off our holy places in Jerusalem.

Baghdad Said Secretly To Agree to Resolution 986

*JN0611194295 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic
8 Nov 95 p 1*

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-BILAD has learned from close diplomatic sources that Iraq has agreed to UN Resolution 986 secretly to avoid embarrassment, as it rejected this resolution during the past two years. UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali's appeal to Iraq to accept the resolution was part of a plan to pave the way for a declaration to that effect in the near future. The resolution provides for limited oil sales, the proceeds of which will go to an international reparations fund for the Gulf War victims.

Secret meetings were held between Iraqi Vice President Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf and Butrus-Ghali on the sidelines of the UN meetings which marked the UN's 50th anniversary last month. The U.S. Embassy in Amman had declined to grant entry visas to 15 members of a government delegation, led by Iraqi Vice President Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, to attend the meetings.

U.S. Embassy sources justified the move by saying it was feared these members would stir up trouble in the United Nations with the aim of marring the UN celebrations, which were attended by many world leaders and heads of state. Visas were granted only to the head of the delegation and six members from the Iraqi Foreign Ministry.

In another development, diplomatic sources in Amman said that the Syrian authorities have refused to receive an Iraqi official who expressed his desire to visit Damascus and meet with Syrian officials to discuss the possibility of restoring diplomatic relations between the two countries. The sources added that the Syrian charge d'affairs in Amman informed the Iraqi Embassy that his government refused to receive Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, under secretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry. He noted that there was no need for such a visit at the present time. The Iraqi Government unilaterally severed diplomatic relations with Syria in 1979 following Saddam Husayn's assumption of power.

Baghdad had expressed its desire to dispatch a government delegation led by al-Faysal to complete earlier discussions in Damascus aimed at restoring relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Officials Relieved of Duty; New Ministers Appointed

*JN0611130095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1204 GMT 6 Nov 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA) — Three republican decrees were issued here today. Under the first decree, Education Minister Hikmat 'Abdallah al-Bazzaz and Irrigation Minister Nizar Jum'ah 'Ali al-Qasir were relieved of their posts.

The second decree appoints 'Abd-al-Jabbar Tawfiq Muhammad as minister of education; 'Abd-al-Ilah Hamid Muhammad Salih as minister of agriculture; Minister of Housing and Reconstruction Mahmud Dhiyab al-Ahmad as minister of irrigation; and Ma'n 'Abdallah Sarsam as minister of housing and reconstruction.

The third decree appoints Nizar Jum'ah al-Qasir as adviser at the republic's presidency.

Saddam, Leadership Discuss Assembly Elections

*JN0411210995 Baghdad Iraq Television Network
in Arabic 2010 GMT 4 Nov 95*

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has presided over a joint meeting for the Revolution Command Council and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The conferees discussed preparations for the National Assembly elections, slated for early 1996. The conferees also discussed the work done by the committee charged with formulating the second draft of a law on the local people's councils.

The meeting was attended by Presidential Office Chief Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi and Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn.

Saddam Urges Employees To Uphold Law

*JN0511170095 Baghdad Iraq Television Network
in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Nov 95*

[Announcer-read report; from the "Evening Newspaper" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, today addressed a message to the men and women and key officials of the state, the under secretaries of ministries, governors, special-grade officials, directors general, and those acting on their behalf. Addressing the men and women of the state, his excellency said: You must respect and fully comply with the law in your jobs. Never deviate from the law even when any minister orders otherwise. You must try to advise whoever orders otherwise within any link in the chain of responsibility. If any official with a higher position of responsibility insists on an opinion that violates the law or central orders, request that his order to you be made in writing and through an official letter, so that he would be held responsible for that order before the law. If you find something in his order that is serious and destructive for the principles of honest and fair public service for the people and the state, you should insist on doing what is available to convey your word to the higher authorities, be that through the party or directly.

U.S. Embassy Move, PLO Office Closure Viewed

JN0511113395 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0930 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA)—An Iraqi political writer has said that those who are rushing toward the Zionist entity and the U.S. Administration should stop entertaining this illusion, and realize that their rush is only a mirage that will lead to further weakness and concessions.

In an article published in the newspaper BABIL today, Taha al-Basri, chief editor of the newspaper AL-THAWRAH, added: The U.S. Administration is absolutely biased toward the Zionist entity. Despite all signs and hostile positions this administration takes against the Arab causes, there are some people who still believe that the U.S. Administration works for the interest of the Arabs or for its own interest.

In his article, al-Basri commented on the U.S. Congress decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem and to withhold from the Palestinian Authority $500 million in U.S. financial aid.

Al-Basri said: The U.S. State Department's recent decision to halt the activity of the PLO office in Washington was a link in the chain of many hostile U.S. positions which have not thus far deterred those who are still convinced that the United States can some day favor the Arab interests.

The Iraqi political writer voiced his astonishment at some Arabs, and wondered whether they will wake up and see the true United States and its political administration.

Opposition To Announce 'Higher Salvation Council'

MM0611140795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
5 Nov 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Zuhayr Qusaybati: "Iraq: 'Higher Salvation Council' To Be Announced Within Days"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — In a statement issued yesterday, a source close to Staff General Husayn Kamil said that "a decision will be announced in the next few days providing for the formation of a higher salvation council in Iraq." He added that the council will "have the task of leading work to change the regime and rescue the people and the homeland."

AL-HAYAH asked Colonel Saddam Kamil, brother of Gen. Husayn Kamil, about the possibility of military action for change in Iraq in the near future. He replied that "the council will have the task of preparing for action in Iraq. We hope that the matter will be decided peacefully." In a reference to President Saddam Husayn, he said: "Our decision is that they should leave peacefully, otherwise they will be ousted." He confirmed that a military command and a political command will stem from the council which "will hold its first meeting within days."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH from Amman yesterday, Col. Saddam Kamil said that numerous committees and specialized bureaus will be attached to the higher salvation council, in addition to an information department which will be supervised by Sabah Salman, former press adviser to President Saddam Husayn. He revealed that "a radio station will begin transmission soon from a location close to Iraq. Efforts are under way to find a location for a television station beamed to Iraq."

He added that "a committee has been working for two months to draft a political program giving details of the next phase in the history of Iraq which we want to be a new harmonious Iraq that would coexist with the states of the region away from war plans." He further said that "this political program will be submitted to the members of the higher salvation council at the first meeting, for discussion, approval, and then announcement." He declined to say where the council would meet.

Asked if the Jordanian leadership was aware of these steps, he replied that the Jordanian leadership "does not allow itself to interfere with such decisions. One of the constant principles of our work is that we do not try to involve any fraternal government in our decisions, because we want to maintain independence of decisionmaking."

The source close to Gen. Husayn Kamil said that "the task of the higher salvation council is to lead work to change the regime (in Iraq), rescue the people and the homeland, and put them on the road to a free and dignified life, and to rebuild Iraq's Arab and international relations on the basis of international law and the UN and Arab League resolutions."

On the composition of the council, the source said that "it will include Iraqi military and political patriotic figures, some of whom are outside the homeland and some inside. Their names will not be announced." The source emphasized that "a political program for government in the future Iraq will soon be announced.

It will be committed to a rotational constitutional and democratic regime that will uphold human rights and freedoms through political pluralism and ideological and press freedom." In reply to a question, the source said that "the main task of the higher salvation council will be inside Iraq because the regime will be confronted from within. The choice of the council members will take into consideration their ability to operate inside [Iraq]."

He denied that Husayn Kamil had visited Damascus. He said that Salah 'Umar al-'Ali, former member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council, met in Damascus recently with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and other senior officials. He said that 'Umar al-'Ali visited the Syrian capital in the company of Mash'an al-Juburi. Asked if there had been a change in the Syrian position, he replied that "the Syrian officials showed understanding of our mission."

It is worth noting that Salah 'Umar al-'Ali is head of the National Accord Grouping. The source added: "We are working for one united Iraq. The political program (higher council) will defer the decision about the relationship between the Arabs and the Kurds until the Iraqi people elect a free parliament."

BABIL Article Discusses Blockade, Law

JN0711113595 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0755 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Nov (INA)—The newspaper BABIL said that the Iraqi people deserve to be happy and to have their self-esteem well-preserved in all fields, adding that this will not be realized through slogans and speeches but by sincere stands, consciences, and hard work.

In an article today, the newspaper said: In order not to be satisfied with mere words and slogans in this regard, this attitude must be expressed through a whole system of relationship between the citizens and the state, between the citizens and state departments, and between the citizens and officials.

The paper said: We must be aware of and admit that the harm which the unjust and ruthless blockade has done to the Iraqi citizen is not only economic, and that a greater harm has been done to the consciences of people, making the blockade a burden on people's hearts. The paper called for patching up all loopholes through which elements of destruction seep. This can be done by genuine equality in which the law will have supreme reign. Fear and hesitation must end so that the citizens, through public channels, can point out all manifestations of deviations and evil, so that the spade will be called a spade without generalizations or exaggerations.

BABIL said that the hand of the law is merciful even if it is very powerful. The weakness and laxity of this hand in a certain place and toward a certain individual at the expense of others or toward a group at the expense of another will lead to the accumulation of the damage that helped the blockade realize its evil aims.

The paper concluded by saying: The citizen should not concede his rights and must not be lenient toward any insults. Nobody has the right to enslave the people who are born free. Nobody has the right to consider himself above the people or above the law.

Alleged Iraqi-Iranian-Turkish Plan on Kurdistan

95AE0067A Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic
18 Aug 95 pp 15-17

[Article by Na'il Mukhaybar: "The Secrets of 'Uday Saddam Husayn's Secret Visit to Tehran. Baghdad's Plan for Recovering Kurdistan With Turkish-Iranian Cooperation and European Cover!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nicosia. A Western intelligence report—information from which reached AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI—confirms that the Iraqi leadership is making large-scale military preparations to launch a well-coordinated offensive against several centers in northern Iraq in order to restore complete Iraqi sovereignty over these areas, which are now under international protection. This offensive will reach the international borders with Turkey and Iran. The preparation for this offensive was made in coordination with both states through several meetings that were held in several European capitals. However, the most important of these meetings was held in Tehran during a secret visit of 'Uday Saddam Husayn to the Iranian capital at the invitation of the Iranian president's son, Hashimi Rafsanjani, who is also the business partner of Saddam Husayn's son.

The intelligence report said that Saddam Husayn has not stopped thinking about restoring Iraqi sovereignty in Kurdistan, ever since it fell under international protection in 1991 following the war to liberate Kuwait. However, this idea remained a hope in view of the international blockade and widespread international sympathy for the cause of the Kurds, who were seen as victims.

Nevertheless, after the wounds of the military were partially healed, the military leadership received orders to draw up the necessary plans to "liberate" northern Iraq and to assess the size of the forces the plan would need, the arms those forces would need, and how much ammunition of different kinds would be required so that they could be made available in accordance with existing capabilities.

The report adds that, during the next stage, corps commanders were ordered to conduct for a select elite of their forces separate training exercises in storming mountain fortifications, without informing middle- and lower-level commands of the purpose of these training exercises.

The report noted that, during the temporary following stage, trained forces from different corps, including the Republican Guard who wear red berets and forces wearing green berets that took part in the war of the cities, participated in a joint maneuver for storming fortified mountain targets. Well-trained and well-armed forces with experience in guerrilla warfare were the focus of this joint maneuver. Military helicopters took part in these exercises. For the first time since 1991, forces were dropped behind "likely enemy" positions in order to perform demolition operations and kidnap individuals.

The report then said that the preparations of the military leadership have not ceased, without there being any significant accompanying political movement. More precisely, however, since early May of last year, the relevant European official agencies started observing various meetings that were held in various places between Iraqi personalities on the one hand and Turkish and Iranian on the other.

The purpose of these meetings—as it appeared at first glance to Western intelligence services—was that Iraq was trying to obtain Turkish and Iranian guarantees that neither would exploit Iraqi weakness because of the international blockade in order to achieve regional gains in northern Iraq. But the Western services noted that the "goal" of these secret meetings was quickly transformed in the next stage into the Turks' and the Iraqis' sounding each other out so as to learn the "reaction" of the other side if Baghdad regained control of the north.

Observers noted that, during this period at different and precisely calculated times, the political leaderships in Ankara and Tehran issued a number of statements emphasizing the desire of both capitals to preserve the unity of Iraq and their support for Baghdad's sovereignty over its different lands, including those lands "temporarily" subject to international protection. Both capitals emphasized that their support for international protection for the Kurds does not in any way mean support for separating the Kurds from their homeland, Iraq.

Start of the Turkish-Iraqi Meetings

The Western report said that the Iraqi leadership started sounding out the Turks and the Iranians separately, so that the focus of each approach would be completely separate from the other. The subject of unloading oil from the pipeline that transports Iraqi petroleum through Turkey was used as the cover for the Turkish-Iraqi meetings. Both the Iraqi and Turkish negotiating delegations included among their members a high-level security emissary. From the first meeting, the two security emissaries were separated from their delegations and moved with extreme secrecy—even if this did not escape the view of Western intelligence—to a small town located north of Ankara known for the many tourists who flock there. The first meeting was held in an isolated "safe house" that was strongly guarded in a way that was not apparent to the public. Through "eavesdropping," Western intelligence services learned that both sides were examining the possibility of an Iraqi invasion of Kurdistan.

Information reached Western "ears" that the Turkish side in the meeting had expressed a positive view of the situation. The meeting held at the start of the present year was dominated by the atmosphere of mutual violence between the supporters of Al-Talabani and Al-Barzani and the background of terrorist operations that the "Turkish" Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) committed against Turkish targets while seeking shelter in rear bases in northern Iraq. However, the Turkish security emissary insisted upon the importance of the Iranian and Western positions on these operations. The Iraqi emissary replied that assurances in this regard would be given in the near future.

The report said that, coterminous with this meeting, Baghdad was conducting similar contacts with Iran, particularly during the visit of an Iranian emissary to Baghdad who was accompanied by an Iranian security official. He met separately with one of Iraq's senior security officials.

The Iraqi security official heard a similar view. The Iranian official informed him that Tehran wanted to know the Turkish view of Iraqi military operations. The Western position also concerned Tehran. Tehran was still betting on the West to counter the U.S. danger to Iran, before that danger developed into an international danger. The Iranian emissary received similar assurances.

As a result of those two meetings, the Iraqi leadership held a restricted meeting that was attended only by Saddam Husayn, his two sons 'Uday and Qusay, the chief of intelligence, and the commander of the army. Despite his advanced age, 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal also attended. Turkish and Iranian reactions were assessed. The Iraqi leadership believed that these reactions were encouraging and that they should continue pursuing them at higher levels.

The report said that Baghdad decided to delay for a time, while waiting for a positive stance from the Security Council regarding the danger imposed on Iraq. However, when Baghdad saw that resolving this issue would take a long time, it decided last April to take the following step.

A meeting was indeed arranged in Vienna between Barzan al-Tikriti and a high-level Turkish security official. The meeting was held in a villa that belonged to the owner of worldwide oil investments who had large interests in resuming the flow of Iraqi oil and whose interests were almost dependent upon resuming the flow of this oil. As usual, this meeting was held in secret. It was held under a diplomatic-humanitarian cover related to UN activities associated with international relief programs.

In reality, Western oil companies received clear signs from Baghdad and international sources concerning the impending resumption of Iraqi oil production before the end of the year. In return, Baghdad received indications from the oil companies about the necessity for cleaning up the oil-producing areas and making them a safe and secure place to work.

During this meeting, Iraqi plans for subduing the north of Iraq were clearly presented. Both Turkish and Iraqi interests were discussed.

Barzan al-Tikriti focused on Turkish security interests, because the success of the Iraqi plan and renewed control of Kurdistan by the Iraqi Army would ultimately lead to the defeat of the PKK, which had been a headache for Turkey. This was particularly true after the failure of Turkish military campaigns in that rugged mountainous area to destroy the rear bases and the centers that supplied, trained, and offered refuge to elements of the PKK. The Iraqi proposal was to continue the present situation in that region so it would become an open wound in Turkey's side that would inevitably lead to the decisive blow that Turkey was so strongly resolved to inflict, but that would bog the Turkish Army down in a guerrilla war it could not win.

Al-Tikriti also said that Turkey needed to secure its rear flank so that it could concentrate its attention on regions of more vital importance to its interests, such as the Aegean Sea, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Albania.

The Iraqi analysis met with Turkish approval, despite the importance it attached to focusing on the Iranian and Western positions. For the first time, the Turkish emissary heard clear Iraqi assurances in this regard.

Secret and Important Meeting

The report continued, saying that, a few weeks after the Vienna meeting, a small airplane landed at Tehran airport bearing the Swiss flag. The number of people who disembarked from the plane could be counted on the fingers of one hand. They immediately piled into black official Mercedes with lowered curtains on their windows. These vehicles stopped in front of the stairs of the aircraft. They were accompanied by several Landcruisers carrying well-armed guards.

The vehicles departed at rocket speed toward one of the hills near Tehran and immediately entered the inner sanctum of a villa or, more precisely, a small palace that the former Shah of Iran used as one of his summer rest houses when he wanted to be alone for rest and relaxation and that was confiscated by the state after the revolution.

The secret visitor was none other than 'Uday Saddam Husayn. He was accompanied by the chief of intelligence, a senior military figure, and several security men from the president's Special Security Force. 'Uday came to Tehran at the invitation of his friend and first business partner, the son of Hashimi Rafsanjani, who accompanied him night and day throughout his visit.

During the meetings that were held in the villa, 'Uday raised the subject of restoring Iraqi sovereignty in Kurdistan to Rafsanjani's son and other Iranian officials for many reasons. The most tempting reason for Rafsanjani's son was that this would lead to a strengthening of the internal trade between Iraq and Iran that both would control together in full partnership. Naturally, both countries—which oppose the international blockade—would benefit from that trade through an exchange of products.

Rafsanjani's son agreed to pass the proposal to the highest levels. He was not surprised when 'Uday proposed the possibility of Iranian partnership, at least by means of imposing an Iranian blockade on the supply and infiltration routes between Kurdistan and Iran. Several developments took place before the tripartite meeting was held.

Rafsanjani's son arranged a meeting for his partner, 'Uday, with his father, Hashimi, that was attended by the head of the Revolutionary Guard and the chief of intelligence. It was clear that Rafsanjani's son had informed the Iranian side of the details of the plan, to which they had agreed in principle on the condition that Turkey would participate in it. This last matter was semiassured as a result of the meetings between Barzan and the Turks in Vienna. During this meeting it was agreed to hold a meeting of all three sides.

The Turkish military campaign failed to uproot PKK bases in northern Iraq. As the situation grew more serious in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Turkey began anxiously following news of a Croatian-Serbian plan to partition Bosnia, while, at the same time, renewed fighting between the supporters of Al-Barzani and Al-Talabani took a dangerous direction, and an international danger was imposed on Iran.

These factors favored the success of the tripartite meeting that took place this time in Ankara—as usual in a secret location.

The intelligence report mentioned that the Iraqi attack was supposed to begin before the coming snowy season and was supposed to be rapid, sudden, and with the fewest number of losses possible among Kurdish civilians so as to prevent angry international reactions.

The military officials who attended the meeting agreed, therefore, that the operation must be based on an intensive landing of special forces in strategic areas of the region. In order to prepare for this, they agreed upon the necessity of neutralizing Al-Barzani's forces so that they would not participate in battles, while conducting a deception operation against Al-Talabani by showering him with promises.

Analysts say that Al-Talabani hates Al-Barzani and accuses him of selling out the Paris agreement—which ended the conflict between the two of them—to Turkey. Turkey feared that this agreement would mean establishing the nucleus of a Kurdish state that would lead to a confrontation between the Turkish state and the Kurds of Turkey. The truth is that Turkey is the one who pressured France to prevent the signing of this agreement. For his part, Al-Barzani accuses his rival, Al-Talabani, of being a "mercenary" who would put his weapons at the service of anyone who hired him, especially Iran.

The Western intelligence report states that the important result of the tripartite meeting in Ankara was that it ended with an agreement that the role of Iran and Turkey would be to cut off the supply routes, prevent the Kurds from using the territory of both states, and convince Western circles of the benefit of the Iraqi operation.

Ankara had, in fact, been in contact with several Western European states, especially Germany, which felt angry and apprehensive about Kurdish terrorist operations on its territory. At the same time, Iran was in contact with Japan, which has large oil interests in Iran.

The main pretext of these contacts was based on the following points:

1. Iraq has the right to extend its sovereignty over all parts of its territory, especially because, until now, it has been in compliance with the international Security Council.

2. Resuming the flow of Iraqi oil has become likely at any time, and in the near future. This oil must, therefore, remain under the sovereignty of the Iraqi Government and far from the grasp of the Kurds, especially because they might try to bomb the Iraqi oil wells in Mosul and Irbil.

3. Continuation of the fighting between the Kurdish factions will create a center of tension that will threaten both the neighboring states and Western Europe. This is what happened in the Lebanese case. When law and order broke down in Lebanon, it was transformed into a center for training and exporting terrorists to the rest of the world.

4. Western interests in Iraqi oil are guaranteed. A state like France will be able to recover its debts only if Iraq resumes the flow of its oil to the rest of the world.

5. Turkey has a special interest in the safe resumption of the flow of Iraqi oil so that it will earn large revenues and will not have to be compensated for the movement of Iraqi oil through its territory.

6. The reestablishment of Iraqi sovereignty in the north does not contradict the legitimate international position that considers Kurdistan an inseparable part of the territory of Iraq.

7. The failure of all marginal attempts against the regime have confirmed that Saddam continues to remain in power and must be dealt with, which is a fact that will not easily disappear.

8. Western support for the Iraqi campaign would restore the European role in the region after the United States had become the single dominant power there.

9. The war among the Kurds, the fragmentation of the opposition, and the desire of every side for leadership confirms the futility of relying on the two of them together to overthrow the regime of Saddam Husayn.

It appears that these pretexts—combined with Iraqi guarantees of good treatment for the Kurds, strengthening of the autonomy that they enjoyed, and diverting part of Iraqi oil revenues to the Kurds—played a part in leading to the Western green light that was given to this operation.

Baghdad thus obtained the green light and support it wanted from its neighbors. Consequently, Baghdad began to prepare the local and Arab groundwork for the success of such an operation.

In the international arena, Baghdad increased its cooperation with the Ekeus mission. Baghdad supplied it with a 500-page document about the Iraqi germ and bacteriological weapons program as proof of its good intentions and desire to resume a positive role in the international family.

In the Arab arena, Baghdad increased its activity to restore Arab solidarity. In practical terms, this means ending the Arab estrangement from Iraq or easing the sharpness of Arab opposition to Saddam's regime, particularly because all Arab states—including Kuwait—support the territorial unity of Iraq.

In this context, Baghdad has also started limiting its relations with the Sudanese regime—which has been the object of widespread Arab rejection—in order to obtain general Arab acceptance.

In the local arena, the Iraqi leadership has taken steps of special significance, including the appointment of a professional as minister of defense instead of 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, even though the latter is a specialist in repression. His presence at the head of the army would lead to a strengthening of the Kurdish rejection of a return to Iraqi sovereignty because he was directly responsible for the well-known Halabjah massacres. Moreover, an operation of this type would require a professional soldier in whom the army had confidence, and not an influential relative.

Sources state that 'Ali Hasan al-Majid tried to get Barzan al-Tikriti to have him appointed governor of the autonomous region so that, in that capacity, he would be the representative of the president of the republic. However, Saddam Husayn rejected that idea and the "mediation" of Barzan, so as not to arouse the resentment of the Kurds at a time when he was on the eve of needing to appease them.

Saddam's Gains

Informed Western sources say that Saddam Husayn would realize several gains from this campaign:

1. "Liberation" of the oil-producing areas from Kurdish "control" because the Kurds are now selling the oil from Irbil for their own benefit.
2. Restoration of the prestige of the regime. $proc$compose dr book5 no 5$proc$
3. Raise the morale of the army after its defeat in Kuwait.
4. Divert the army's attention to an internal battle.
5. Prove to the world that the Iraqi regime is still strong and must be dealt with.
6. Benefit from the rich resources of the north in order to fill the shortage of necessities needed by Iraqis.
7. Teach a lesson to the rebels of the south that would serve as a warning.
8. Iranian support for the Iraqi movement in the north would virtually eliminate Iranian support for the rebels in the south and place them in the pincer grip of a blockade.

The sources said that the Iraqi opposition based in the north of Iraq has already heard news of the Iraqi plan. For this reason, the opposition has started taking refuge in other places. They started doing this particularly because the plan requires rapid landing operations with helicopters to kidnap leaders of the opposition and its symbols and transport them to Baghdad, where they would stand trial for high treason in time of war—a capital crime.

The sources said that Maj. Gen. Wafiq al-Samarra'i, the former commander of Iraqi military intelligence, received a warning from several of his relatives in Baghdad who still occupy positions of influence. Consequently, he fled to Damascus to save himself.

The sources also said that Mas'ud Rajawi and his supporters have started scratching their heads and looking urgently for a safe refuge because execution of the plan requires Iranian cooperation. They will pay the price of that plan, as part of Iran's reward for cooperating with the restoration of Iraqi sovereignty in Kurdistan.

Peres Addresses Peace Process, Rabin

LD0611203895 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer Daniel Bilalian, live from Jerusalem] When he left his meeting with the French president, Mr. Shim'on Peres agreed to approach us — we were alone — to answer a few questions that I asked him together with Simon Dret. I asked Prime Minister Shim'on Peres — it was his first interview since the assassination of Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin — I began by asking him if he had thought such an event, such an attack, such a crime was possible in Israel. Listen to his answer. Mr. Shim'on Peres.

[Begin recording] [Bilalian] Mr. Peres, two of you ran the country's affairs — Mr. Rabin and yourself. Today you are alone. Very alone?

[Peres] You know, two is a lot; one is very little.

[Bilalian] The presence of dozens and dozens of heads of state today — we have just seen Mr. Chirac leaving, Mr. Clinton has been here, there have been Arab heads of state...[pauses] What did you feel as an Israeli and as prime minister of this country?

[Peres] It is a show of support for peace, for peace in the Middle East, and for the coming of peace, which is quite rare in our age. We have greatly appreciated the participation of almost all the world's leaders.

[Bilalian] Do you think, Mr. Prime Minister, that today, after this event, the negotiations will slow down or, on the contrary, accelerate?

[Peres] That is my hope, but a lot of difficulties must be overcome.

[Bilalian] Mr. Prime Minister, a final question: What lasting memory will you have of Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin — if there had to be just one?

[Peres] A comrade has different facets — personal, historical, human. The greatest one is the partnership that is built when you have the same vision. It is in dreams that you can find the greatest comrade.

[Bilalian] Thank you, Prime Minister. [end recording]

Peres Says West Bank Redeployment To Resume

TA0711062395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres says Israel will this morning renew the redeployment in Judaea and Samaria stopped during the two-day mourning period. Peres said the Israeli Government remains devoted to the peace process and will honor all its commitments. He also said Jerusalem is seriously interested in making peace with Syria.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 7 November adds: "The contacts between Israel and the Palestinians with regard to the redeployment in Judaea and Samaria will resume at noon today. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Major General Gabi Ofir, commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in Judaea and Samaria, will meet General al-Hajj Isma'il Jabr, commander of the Palestinian police in the West Bank, to discuss the preparations for the deployment of his troops in the Janin area. Palestinian officers will be arriving in Janin from Jericho within the next few days, and some 500 Palestinian policemen will move from Gaza to Jericho in anticipation of their deployment in northern Samaria. The Palestinians insist on their demand that the IDF's pullout from Janin be completed on 13 November, while Israel contends that it must end on 19 November."

[Today Peres continues his meetings with the heads of state who are still here following the Rabin funeral yesterday. Peres will hold talks with British Prime Minister John Major, the prime ministers of Ireland and South Korea, and the foreign minister of Japan.]

Territories' Closure Said Eased

TA0611192495 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The closure on the territories will be eased. Gaza laborers aged 35 and over and West Bank laborers 30 and over will be allowed to enter Israel for work tomorrow morning. Our army affairs correspondent Avi Lifshitz reports that vehicles transporting laborers to Israel will not be permitted for the time being. Likewise, only female as opposed to male students will be allowed to leave the Gaza Strip for Israel. The entry of Judaea, Samaria, and East Jerusalem residents into Gaza is also banned for the time being.

Editorial Calls Upon Peres To Heal Society Rift

TA0711093895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Nov 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Wanted: A Healing"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel is not a superpower whose favors and protection are sought by the nations of the world, but not since John F. Kennedy's funeral in 1963 has there been an assembly of world leaders like yesterday's gathering in Jerusalem in tribute to Yitzhaq Rabin. It was almost as if Zion had really become a light unto the nations, as if the love of peace had replaced the awe of power.

It was not, of course, an ordinary funeral of an Israeli premier. Like all events honoring assassinated leaders, it was not just an event of state but a protest by the world establishment against anarchy and murder, a demonstration on behalf of civilization and order.

But the appearance of more than 80 monarchs, presidents and prime ministers on a cemetery hill in Jerusalem — a capital the vast majority of them do not recognize — for the unceremonious burial of a tiny country's premier cannot be perceived as merely an expression of solidarity. Rabin was much more than a colleague slain in the line of duty. He represented — to risk a cliche — the eternal hope for a better world.

If there is one area of the world in which peace seems elusive if not utterly impossible, it is the Middle East. This is true not only because of the century-old conflict between Jews and Arabs over the same piece of land, nor just the fierce Moslem opposition to the existence of "infidel" sovereignties in the region. Much of the strife in the area has nothing to do with Israel's existence. As the Gulf War proved most recently, and as the continuing belligerency of Iran, Iraq, Libya and Syria show now, the area's turmoil is as endemic as it is threatening to world peace.

But by taking steps which previous Israeli governments had deemed unthinkable and reaching an agreement with the PLO, Rabin inspired hope that even the seemingly insurmountable can be conquered. True, he caused a sharp split in Israel by doing so, but the world community — hopeful that he would neutralize one of the world's most volatile powder kegs — became his fan club.

What has given this trend a special boost was the unstinting support of the U.S. In the absence of any real competition, the U.S., the only true superpower, sets the tone in world politics. Had it ignored Rabin, the rest of the world would have found it difficult to work up much enthusiasm for his initiatives. But President Bill Clinton's devotion and friendship, the tireless mediation efforts of the American diplomatic team headed by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and the Israeli access to the American corridors of power have all made Israel a global factor quite disproportionate to its size.

It is most likely that Israel will continue to be such a factor in the foreseeable future. If anything, Rabin's death may increase world sympathy for his unfinished plans. Nor are the leaders who paid him tribute yesterday unaware of Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres's contribution to the process. On the contrary. Most undoubtedly know that the architect and begetter of the Oslo agreements is Peres, and that Rabin — the military hero — provided mostly the necessary credibility for the risks these agreements entail.

It should not, then, be difficult for Peres to continue receiving world support and encouragement. If anything, it may be easier now to get the richer countries to contribute to the Palestinian economy and thus realize his dream of a more prosperous Palestinian entity.

But it would be a mistake for Peres to believe that world support is all he needs to complete the task he and Rabin began. As one Israeli politician has put it, peace with the Palestinians cannot be achieved if there is no peace inside Israel. There are many who view the agreements with the PLO as blunders which may invite war rather than bring peace. It is their right to have doubts about the government's policies and to oppose them with all legal means.

But the vast majority of these opponents will dutifully follow the national majority's decisions. To try to delegitimize them now through charges that they share the guilt of Rabin's assassination is to inflame internal conflicts to a danger point. Peres's first duty as prime minister must be to relieve tensions, heal the open wounds, and call for reasoned and civilized debate. He is considered one of the world's most skilled diplomats. Let him use these skills in Israel first.

Labor Party Leader Views Post-Rabin Scene

LD0611214295 Paris TF-1 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 6 Nov 95

[Interview with Labor Party Secretary General Nessim Zvili by Claire Chazal, in Jerusalem — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Chazal] Good evening, Nessim Zvili. You are the secretary general of the Labor Party, the party in power. We heard in Michel Floquet's report that some Israelis did not like Yitzhaq Rabin. Do you think that these right-wing or extreme right-wing movements might have encouraged, so to speak, killers such as the young man who shot Yitzhaq Rabin dead?

[Zvili] First of all, what I feel is that we are going through a nightmare. We saw yesterday and today that the Israeli people will not be separated from Yitzhaq Rabin. Above all, they do not accept that his society — which is based on very profound values, democracy especially — allowed the development of a climate which permitted the germination of a person who might become an assassin.

[Chazal] According to you, should one introduce measures against these Jewish extremists?

[Zvili] First, (?one should). Second, I am ashamed. Honestly, I am ashamed, and I was sorry to hear that, over the last 48 hours, thousands of Israelis have applauded this assassination. This is incredible. This is against religion, this is against everything we believe in, this is against our society, this is against our values in this society. Again, I heard today — not only in the [occupied] territories, but almost everywhere else — a minority which has the impudence to justify such an action. I know it is a minority, but I hope [pauses] the most important thing — and this is now our role — is to restore Israeli democracy.

My fears are for the young generation. I have seen them. I saw the young generation being afraid. I saw the young generation which does not know how it happened. They do not believe — they have never believed — that such a thing ....

[Chazal, interrupting] We did see in that [Floquet] report that they were very much concerned by this tragedy ....

[Zvili] ... it was incredible to see the young generation. Now, is it possible to take [as heard] groups which are in a minority in society, extremists, genuine extremists? I do not know how we can curb their power, how we can curb their freedom, because we cannot allow this phenomenon to develop within the Israeli society.

[Chazal] If you don't mind, we will come back to you in a moment. [passage omitted] Well, Nessim Zvili, some people were absent from this funeral, but there were also a lot of people present, notably from the Arab countries, who had never come before, Husayn of Jordan, President Mubarak. What did you feel on seeing them today in Jerusalem?

[Zvili] First, I felt a great joy — a great joy that they should be there, (?no doubt about it). But I think that their speeches, especially King Husayn's speech, which was a moving speech [pauses] one must not forget that Rabin, as an Israeli general or chief of staff, was the person who won the Six-Day War, who conquered almost all the territories, and today he [Husayn] calls him his brother, calls him his friend. That is an incredible thing. It is a pity Mubarak has come to Jerusalem — not like Sadat, when Mr. Rabin was alive, but to come to his funeral. But nonetheless it was a very courageous, very important step; and I think also it is a pity that Mr. Asad, the Syrian president, was not able to use ....

[Chazal, interrupting] For the moment no official position has been taken by Syria.

[Zvili] Yes, I don't know. The official position taken today is no longer that important. He should have taken step toward peace when Mr. Rabin was still alive; but I hope the doors remain open. [passage omitted]

[Chazal] Well, Nessim Zvili, we have just seen [in video report] the portrait of this new prime minister, Shim'on Peres. In your opinion, how can he establish genuine political legitimacy in the country?

[Zvili] Mr. Peres is already a very well-known leader in Israel.

[Chazal] He has not made war.

[Zvili] He has not made war, but he has made peace. He has made peace; he has an extraordinary vision. Several people know that he is a man who, with Yitzhaq Rabin, developed the peace process and brought it forward. Today, our role is to unify the Labor Party under the leadership of Mr. Shim'on Peres, to give it the majority necessary to ensure we can continue on the path which Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin began. We must not forget Mr. Rabin's testament, in his last words, in the speech and in his song: Namely, to continue in the peace process, and to say no to violence; and we will fulfill that testament right up to the last minute.

[Chazal] Thank you very much, Mr. Zvili, for being with us live.

Labor Reportedly Begins Talks on New Government

TA0711080395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Labor Party is to begin unofficial talks on the establishment of a new government, particularly with United Torah Jewry [UTJ], SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], and the National Religious Party. The official talks will begin only after the president entrusts Shim'on Peres with the task of forming a government.

Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that UTJ sources say they will not join the government if changes are not made in the Religious Affairs Ministry and the Education Ministry.

After consulting with Knesset Member Arye Der'i, Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef decided that SHAS will not participate in Shim'on Peres' government unless another party, such as UTJ or Tzomet, joins in. SHAS will recommend that a national unity government be set up when he meets with President 'Ezer Weizman.

Rabbi Yosef called for ending the demonstrations, incitement, and violence which, according to him, had caused the death of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and might destroy Israel. Interviewed by our correspondent Yo'el Nir, Rabbi Yosef said that the inciters cannot repent and claim that they were not the ones who had shed the blood. He fiercely denounced the assassin, saying that he had removed himself from the Jewish nation and disgraced Israel before the goyim.

Netanyahu Discusses Peace Process in Interview

MS0711104795 London BBC Television Network in English 2230 GMT 6 Nov 95

[Interview with Benjamin Netanyahu, Likud Party opposition leader, in Jerusalem, by Jeremy Paxman, in London, on 6 November; from the "Newsnight" program — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Paxman] Earlier I spoke to the Leader of the Israeli opposition Likud Party Benjamin Netanyahu, I asked him whether seeing leaders of the Arab world coming to Jerusalem alleviated his concerns about the peace process?

[Netanyahu] There is no division in Israel about the desire for peace. We all have young children or families. We want to see our children, our grandchildren living in peace, and we supported, as you know, the peace with Egypt. Under a Likud Government it was first promulgated. The peace with Husayn [Jordanian King], which I enthusiastically supported. We support peace, we have differences on how to achieve it.

[Paxman] What do you think then is the future of the peace process now?

[Netanyahu] I think that the people of Israel will decide exactly how they want to continue the quest for peace, and especially the quest for peace with security, because that is the most important question. But I don't think right now, on a day of such terrible grief and shock, that people are too concerned with that question. Whatever disagreements we may have over how to best achieve peace, we cannot have any disagreement on how to disagree. And it cannot be that we'll have solitary deranged individuals putting murder — the Prime Minister of the Jewish state. [as heard] We have the first Jewish principle — though shall not kill, though shall not murder — and the first rule of democracy is that we decide governments by ballots and not by bullets. And so I say that I would support the continuation of this, the formation of this Government so that we don't have a vacuum where Mr Peres [Deputy Prime Minister] and I are haggling over coalition partners. I did something that has not been done in the state of Israel, I basically forfeited my opportunity to try to form a contrary government. Labor was at the head of this Government before this assassination, as far as I'm concerned from that point of view and only that point of view alone, that assassination did not happen. There should be continuity of Government, that should not be in any way decided by an assassin's bullet. I will not let that happen in this country.

[Paxman] And does Mr Peres, in your judgment, command the confidence of the Israeli people?

[Netanyahu] You'll forgive me, I'm not going to speak right now about political questions about Mr Peres's qualifications, and so on. I think right now the fact is very simple, he is the Leader of the Labor Party and the Labor Party has designated him to approach the President in order to have the formation of the Government. I've said yesterday that we will rescind any objections to his doing so, and by that what I've been trying to do is bring a process of stability and containment and order in this terrible hour. We cannot continue business as usual. It's not usual, we don't have assassinations, we in fact, we've not had them for 2,000 years.

[Paxman] Where do you imagine the peace process will go if you win the next election?

[Netanyahu] Well I would surprise you, you know it's always been said that if the Likud were to come to power it would be a terrible thing, and of course Mr Begin [former Prime Minister] came to power in 1977, and it was not a terrible thing, it was the breakthrough peace with Egypt. And I think, similarly that we will be able to not only inspire confidence in the people but also get realistic negotiations with our Arab partners. I think we'll have a lot of time to discuss these questions. But today when you see the slain body of a Jewish Prime Minister, slain by a Jew, this is for us such a profound shock that I think right now the order of the day is to put order back in our lives and to put some sort of coherence on something that shatters the fabric of Israeli life. We have to put it back together.

Majority Reportedly for Outlawing 'Extremists'

TA0611143895 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 6 Nov 95 p 5

[Public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute under the management of Dr. Mina Tzemah; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Question: Should the extreme right-wing organizations be outlawed?

Answer: Yes — 74 percent; no — 20 percent; no reply — 6 percent.

Question: Should the Knesset and premiership elections be moved forward?

Answer: Yes — 30 percent; no — 64 percent; no reply — 6 percent.

The poll, conducted on 5 November, covered 505 respondees who constitute a representative sample of the adult Israeli population. The margin of error is 4 percent.

Debate Called For on 'Campaign of Incitement'

TA0711063195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Likud Knesset caucus is demanding that the speaker convene the plenum to discuss what it says is the campaign of incitement against the Likud. Acting caucus chairman Mikha'el Eytan says in a letter to Speaker Shevah Weiss that it is unthinkable to close down the Knesset for a week, even as cabinet ministers launch a dangerous campaign against the Likud. Eytan says the government is, for all intents and purposes, blaming members of the opposition for the assassination.

Harish Views U.S. Commitment to Local Economy

TA0611194495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1905 GMT 6 Nov 95

[Statement by Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish following the Peres-Clinton meeting at King David Hotel in Jerusalem — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] The President and his secretary of state seized the opportunity to announce the U.S. willingness to help Israel during this transitional period until the government steadies itself following the national trauma we are suffering. I assume that the President was expressing a policy and principles that can be translated to practical terms.

In my area of interest, for example, cooperation on the issue of high technology, within the framework of the joint committee on high technology, is something the President cares very much about because he initiated it. Certainly, this will serve as a lever to promote the issue in the coming year and it has, in fact, started moving forward; American and Israeli companies are already involved.

I know that the finance minister met today with his counterpart on different issues, but I would stress here that, in addition to the bilateral issues, they are interested in bolstering Israeli partnerships with its partners to the peace process: Jordan and the Palestinians, where they have given us a key to bilateral cooperation; and Egypt, which currently requires incentives, also for its economy.

Shohat Says Economic Policy Will Not Change

TA0711064995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Finance Minister Avraham Shohat does not believe that the new government in Israel will change its economic policy because, he says, the approach of Shim'on Peres is the same as his own and that of Yitzhaq Rabin. Speaking to Qol Yisra'el, the finance minister said initial signs indicate that the world is continuing to express confidence in the Israeli economy.

King Returns, Comments on Rabin's Funeral

JN0611220495 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2125 GMT 6 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur returned home a short while after participating in the funeral of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan led those who received their majesties. [passage omitted] Upon his return to the homeland, His Majesty King Husayn made the following statement to our correspondent Ruba 'Assaf:

[Begin recording] ['Assaf] Your Majesty, you have just held a quadripartite meeting with President Clinton, President Mubarak, and Shim'on Peres....

[Husayn, interrupting] With President Clinton, with Shim'on Peres, and (?with a number of brothers).

['Assaf] What were the main topics of discussion during this meeting?

[Husayn] We discussed everything related to the situation in this region and the peace process. Also, we discussed the conference, which convened here and which, by all criteria, is considered a success and an object of pride for us in Jordan. All expressed their determination to support and maintain their commitment to the peace process in the coming stages until it achieves its objectives, God willing.

['Assaf] Your Majesty, your participation today received great world appreciation. In your opinion, what will be the repercussions of Yitzhaq Rabin's assassination on the peace process in the region?

[Husayn] There is no doubt that he is a big loss. As I knew him, he was a man of word and principle. He was a soldier in the peace process. We had a special and distinguished relationship which was characterized by frankness and clarity in all cases. However, this is God's will. On the other hand, I am confident that what happened will make people more committed to this process until it achieves its objectives, because they are in the interest of the coming generations and because it is the only way which we must follow.

['Assaf] Thank you, Your Majesty. [end recording]

Israeli Rightists Blamed for Rabin Death

JN0611210795 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Nov 95 pp 1, 29

[Editorial: "The Fruits of Extremism and Hatred"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Perhaps the major lesson derived from the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is that the extremism and racial hatred that have grown in parallel with the peace process can no longer be contained by the same methods the Israeli Government has used over the past three years. That government used to disregard the ugly manifestations of extremism and hatred in Israel and to highlight them in neighboring states.

There is no doubt that the best way to end this bloody extremism is to forge ahead with the peace process by brushing aside the obstacles created by the extremist settlers for the Israeli Government, which has greatly indulged and pandered these settlers and sometimes even bowed to campaigns accusing Rabin of betrayal and relinquishment of the entire land of Israel.

Therefore, we can say that the danger posed by the Zionist rightists, who are full of grudge, hatred, hostility, and racial arrogance against the Arabs, is the main problem and the source of all tensions that are blocking the current peace process. These rightists use their licensed weapons to dictate their will on the Israeli Government and even carry out the first political assassination of its kind in Israel by killing the prime minister.

The assassination that has shocked everybody in the region and the world was not planned by one individual. The opposite is true only if we ignore the hysterical extremism which the Israeli rightists and settlers have regularly boosted over the past years until they have produced an obedient son to shoot three fatal bullets from his licensed pistol at the symbol, who represents the current change in Israel in favor of the peace option.

While we observe this terrible bloody scene and the sorrow on the faces of hundreds of thousands of Israelis who were shocked by the assassination, we urge Rabin's successor to be more willing and determined to speed up the peace process on all tracks and to overcome all obstacles to peace, for which there is no alternative. This may be the best historical reply to all dangers threatening that option from both sides.

Party Urges Clarification of Palestinian Ties

JN0411075895 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Nov 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Al-Watan political party has issued a statement describing the government's decision to grant Palestinian citizens living in the occupied territories and holding Jordanian 'green cards' five years passports as a dangerous development and demanded that the government issue clarification of the nature of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship.

The Al-Watan party bases its ideology on firm policies which among others include: faith in pan-Arab unity, the Palestine problem is the crux of the whole Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestinian people should be helped to cling to their national soil, action must be taken aimed at implementing UN resolutions and enabling the Palestinian people to establish their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital, said the statement.

Voicing the party's support for any measure that would facilitate the Palestinian people's travel and reduce their sufferings caused by the Israeli occupation, the statement said that the Jordanian people have a duty to back the Palestinian people's steadfastness in their struggle to liberate their homeland.

But it said that in view of the government's decision to grant the Palestinian citizens living in the occupied territories five-year passports, the party should clarify its stand vis-a-vis this question, which, it said, "has dangerous dimensions."

The party listed the following three stands in describing its position.

First: the party totally and out rightly rejects the idea of a substitute Palestinian state as such state would mean the evacuation of the Palestinian people from their homeland and solving the Palestine problem at the expense of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

Second: Jordanian people's clinging to their own land and protecting the independent Jordanian state is a vital strategy that does not in any way conflict with their backing for the Palestinian people's drive to liberate their land and establish their own independent state on Palestinian soil after which the two sides can formulate a model unity that could serve as a nucleus for the aspired pan-Arab unity.

Third: The government decision to grant Palestinian citizens five-year passports requires strategic clarification of the nature of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship which must have institutional reference and be founded on constitutional grounds.

Paper on Israeli, U.S. Peace Efforts

JN0711115595 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Nov 95 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "We Are Committed to Peace and Determined to Pursue It"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Separate from all the various political analyses concerning the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, there remains an indisputable fact as firm as the death of Rabin. This fact is that Rabin fell while pursuing peace for his people and the entire region with unlimited political vigor and determination. That was the theme of all the speeches made at Rabin's funeral yesterday, after the bullets of Jewish terrorism penetrated his body at the King's Square in Tel Aviv Saturday night.

In this context, His Majesty King Husayn's speech in commemoration of Rabin was a new birth certificate for peace and a new death certificate for the forces of darkness, the enemies of life, faith, and our only God who gave peace to the children of Abraham, as his majesty the king said.

His majesty also demanded the camp of peace to speak out, to demand commitment to peace, and to expose the forces of darkness trying to assassinate peace, especially the symbols of blind hatred that killed Rabin while he was intoxicated by peace at a peace rally.

His Majesty King Husayn stressed that the peace camp will inevitably prevail. He pledged before God and people that he will proceed in this direction with his utmost because this is the only legacy that immortalizes its owner among the coming generations. Worthy of this legacy, the coming generations will build on it their hopes and aspirations for a safe, stable, and prosperous life.

The speeches of the heads of state and key political figures who represented 80 states were in the same vein. Arabs, Jews, and regional and international figures assembled there to eulogize and bid the man farewell.

We hope that Rabin's death will serve as an incentive for his colleagues and President Clinton and his administration — the sponsor of the peace process — to continue the peace process on all fronts, so that Rabin would be the last witness and martyr of the mentality of the Talmudic citadel and the anti-peace forces of darkness.

Roundup of Amman Summit Accomplishments

JN0411085495 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Nov 95 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—A stocktaking after last week's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit indicates that Jordan has largely achieved most of its objectives from the gathering, in its role as a host of the event as well as a key player in regional economic development.

Israel, Egypt and the Palestinians—the three other "core parties" in the Middle East along with Jordan—also appeared to have secured what they were aiming from the summit.

Judging from public comments by American officials, the U.S., the main force behind the summit and the ideas propagated and discussed there in terms of Arab-Israeli economic cooperation and international help for projects in the region that would reflect on people's daily lives, was also satisfied that the conference helped advance the regional economic effort.

The Europeans, grouped under the 15-nation European Union, kept their distance on a proposal to set up a Middle East development bank, but made up for the deliberate shortcoming by assuming active roles on the private sector level.

Apart from announcing the establishment of the Middle East development bank, a regional business council and a regional tourism board—meaning a major step in institutionalising regional cooperation—the summit also decided to set up the general secretariat of the Regional Economic Cooperation Working Group (REDWG), one of the bodies stemming from the multilateral phase of the four-year-old Middle East peace process, in Amman.

It was not immediately known where the regional tourism and business councils will be housed, but, according to Jordanian officials, the Kingdom will strive to house at least one of them. The officials say that setting up the REDWG secretariat was no more than formality since such a group already existed in Amman, one of the leading players in the multilateral working groups.

Also announced on the fringes of the summit was that Jordan had secured important international credit ratings that would allow the Kingdom to raise capital from a hitherto closed source— international pension funds and insurance companies which, by internal status, are banned from lending to countries which do have enjoyed high credit ratings.

In general, most of the publicly signed agreements were prepared in advance but the focus on the accords gave the three-day conference an additional element of significance.

Such accords involved loan agreements for over $300 million signed by Jordan with Japan and the World Bank—to help boost the Kingdom's foreign exchange reserves—and with the French government to help expand the transport sector.

Also significant was the British announcement that the London government was opening a guaranteed export credit line to Jordan after a hiatus of six years.

The Jordanian Mu'ashir group and the international hotel chain Hilton signed an agreement to establish a $20 million, 250-room hotel in Amman.

The Jordanian and Israeli potash companies signed an agreement to extract bromine from the Dead Sea, in what is widely seen as a milestone in the Kingdom's efforts to attract investment to exploiting the mineral resources in the Dead Sea.

Precise details of the cost of the project, etc. were not immediately released.

The summit also saw the formal launching of Jordanian access to Internet, the international computer network that provides information on almost everything around the world, about consumer markets, technology, media, banking, business opportunities, insurance, copyrights and patents, latest developments in the international money markets, etc.

For Israel, the even was more significant in a political sense than an economic sense. The summit advanced its quest to be an accepted member of the Middle Eastern order by most Arab countries. More than 100 Israeli businessmen attended the conference, some of them rubbing shoulders with Gulf Arabs for the first time, shaking hands and exchanging business cards for future contacts (a lunch hosted by Israel appeared to have been one of the most crowd-drawing events of the summit, with waiters rushing to set up extra tables at the last minute).

Although Israel presented projects worth nearly $25 billion, Israeli businessmen and officials did not necessarily press their approach with their usual aggressive vigour, participants said.

"It seems that Israeli businessmen took seriously an implicit (Israeli) government suggestion that they do not adopt an aggressive approach lest that might fuel Arab hardliners' arguments that Israelis were seeking economic domination of the region," commented a European participant.

According to participants and Jordanian officials, it is very difficult to pinpoint the net outcome of the contacts that were made during the summit simply because of the natural reluctance of businessmen to discuss ideas and proposals in public before concrete results have been achieved.

One of the most important agreements involving Israel signed during the summit was an accord between the government of the Jewish state and the American Enron Corporation under which Qatari gas will be supplied to Israel beginning 2001.

Jordan is likely to house at al-'Aqabah the major terminal for Qatari gas, which will be ferried by tankers to the Red Sea port for onward transport to Israel. Jordan itself and the Palestinian territories could also buy Qatari gas.

Dozens of joint ventures between Jordanian and Israeli businessmen were also discussed, and, in some cases, projects were also finalised. These include cooperation between textile and garment marketing outlets in Israel and potential Jordanian manufacturing units, Israeli consumer retail outlets and Jordanian suppliers, and Israeli cosmetic manufacturers and Jordanian wholesalers.

Egypt realised two of its key objectives: Security itself as host for the $5 billion Middle East development bank and for the next Mena summit in 1996. (Diplomatic sources say that a deal was actually struck in Moscow during a task force meeting several months ago that Cairo would host the bank).

At the same time, Egyptian businessmen were also very active in the summit, most of them focusing on their counterparts from the Gulf states for venture capital with Egyptian technology. Again, if agreements were reached, they were not announced.

Jordan and the PNA signed an agreement under which Jordan would offer expertise in energy-related areas to the Palestinian territories.

Another accord launched a $2 million U.S.-financed study on laying a Jordan-Palestine-Israel fibre-optics network that could serve as a Middle Eastern "information highway."

The Palestinians, represented by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and a group of West Bank and Gaza businessmen, appeared to have adopted a rather low-key approach in Amman for financing private sector projects since most of their contacts with the international community are conducted on a bilateral level out of Gaza and Jerusalem as well as between European and U.S.-based Palestinian businessmen and potential investors.

Qatar announced the establishment of a $250 million fund for the Palestinian territories and said the first $25 million were already secured. The agreement on setting up the fund was reached early this year, diplomatic sources said.

Defense Minister Calls All Israelis 'Warmongers'

NC0511173495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] National Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has stated that nothing will change with the assassination of Rabin. They are all warmongers. Rabin was the Israeli army chief of staff during the 1967 aggression against the Arabs. Dallul described Israeli society as based on aggression and blood and on attempting to impose its will on the region.

Druze Sect Reacts to Rabin's Assassination

NC0711105295 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement was released by the head of the Druze sect office on the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. It stressed that the Talmudic education given to Jews has yielded fruit. This education caused the assassination of one of these leaders, who killed and displaced our people in Palestine and destroyed their homes. They still act against our people in occupied Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, and the Arab World.

The statement said that Zionist racism and Jewish crime boomeranged and hit the one who has committed massacres for dozens of years in Sinai, Palestine, the Golan, and Lebanon. With the death of Rabin, the mask of false peace has fallen and the reality of the Hebrew state has been exposed. The Hebrew state does not want our people to live, but wants our land. It wants our people to capitulate. The statement noted that the continued coordination between Syria and Lebanon in the negotiations and President al-Asad's insistence on a fair and comprehensive peace will keep our nation hopeful that the dawn of upholding right and frustrating falsity is near.

Arab Attendance at Rabin's Funeral Discussed

NC0711085395 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab leaders miss no opportunity in their rush to please the Zionist entity, ignoring their peoples' will and proving their loyalty to the Americans and Zionists. The funeral of Yitzhaq Rabin provided an opportunity for a number of Arab officials to break taboos by visiting occupied Jerusalem and recognizing the Zionists' sovereignty over the city as their capital while shedding tears over their friend Rabin. The children in Palestine and south Lebanon know better than old men the extent of Rabin's crimes and bestiality.

Taking part in the funeral of the world's archterrorist Rabin, were Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Jordan's King Husayn, Moroccan Prime Minister Abdellatif Filali, an Omani minister, and a Qatari minister.

The Egyptian president praised Rabin, calling him a hero of peace. He called for continuing the settlement process in the region. He said: With our strong determination to achieve this goal, we will be able to keep alive the memory of this hero, who died for peace.

Jordan's King Husayn, with tear-filled eyes, said: We are not ashamed and are not afraid, but determined to continue on the path that the departed Israeli prime minister pursued.

We would like to note here that Yasir 'Arafat, described as the most prominent absentee at the funeral of his master Rabin, was absent because the Zionist officials, persisting in their policy of humiliating him on every occasion, rejected his participation in the funeral. To save face, a number of ministers of the Palestinian Authority attended.

Amal's Musavi on 'Struggle' Against 'Zionists'

LD0511182395 Tehran IRNA in English 1756 GMT 5 Nov 95

["Amal-Rabin-Bloodsucker" — IRNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Nov. 5, IRNA — Head of Lebanese Islamic Amal Movement, Husayn Musavi, termed the assassination of Zionist premier, Yitzhaq Rabin as "natural".

Musavi said that Rabin was a (words indistinct).

He stressed that their struggle against the usurper Zionists would continue even after the death of Rabin. He concluded that as long as the state of occupation continues, Muslim combatants will fight incessantly".

Hizballah Official Expects More Assassinations

NC0511180595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim has stated that he expects the assassination of Rabin will herald a series of assassinations of Israeli leaders from various Israeli political factions in the coming phase. He said it is unlikely that Israel will carry out an extensive military operation in southern Lebanon because this will increase the predicament facing the Israeli leadership.

Hizballah Rally Held in Memory of al-Shaqaqi

NC0611090895 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah has organized a public rally to mark the passage of one week since the death of the martyr Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad. It was attended by popular delegations, Islamic leaders and officials, and diplomats.

The martyr al-Shaqaqi's wife pledged to continue on the path of jihad against the Zionist enemy until the sacred land is liberated.

The speech of the nationalist parties was delivered by In'am Ra'd who praised the role of the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon and the struggler intifadah in occupied Palestine. He criticized the U.S. Congress bill to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. He also criticized Amman's economic summit through which the Americans and the Zionists are trying to dominate our nation.

Shaykh Mahir Hammud delivered a speech on behalf of the Muslim Ulema Grouping. He referred to the overwhelming joy felt by the Lebanese public after the assassination of the terrorist Rabin.

Brother Talal Naji, assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, delivered a speech on behalf of the Palestinian factions. He asserted that al-Shaqaqi's martyrdom strengthens our resolve to continue our struggle. He pledged to the memory of the martyred hero that all Palestinian forces will continue the armed struggle until all of Palestine is liberated.

Islamic Jihad's new Secretary General Dr. Ramadan 'Abdallah reiterated his pledge to continue the path of jihad and resistance until all of Palestine is liberated. He said that the current martyrdom [suicide] operations in Palestine are the first drops of an overwhelming flood that will sweep away all those criminals.

He added: We tell the dead Rabin what we told him when he was alive. We can accept nothing less than Jerusalem in exchange for Abu-Ibrahim's [al-Shaqaqi] death.

His Eminence Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, Hizballah secretary general, affirmed that the way to show loyalty to the memory of the martyr Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi is to carry his blood, rifle, and bullets to fight the Zionist enemy until victory is achieved.

His eminence addressed these words to the Palestinian people: Anyone who thinks of abandoning his rifle will help to make Jerusalem the Zionist entity's eternal capital and will offend the memory of the martyr Fathi al-Shaqaqi.

Nasrallah referred to Rabin's killing, saying: We must wait for the consequences of this event inside Zionist society and with regard to the political settlement.

He noted that the rapid martyrdom operations carried out by Islamic Jihad strugglers inside occupied Palestine are a reaffirmation of the path of jihad. He added that Islamic Resistance operations are merely the beginning of a response to Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi's assassination.

Suspect in Assassination of al-Halabi Arrested

NC0611191795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Security forces this morning arrested fugitive suspect Shakir al-Birjawi in an island off the city of Tripoli while he was trying to flee secretly to Cyprus on a speedboat. He had a military weapon and a forged passport.

The suspect had escaped from the custody of a security forces' patrol in October.

[Cairo MENA in English at 1650 GMT on 6 November carries a similar report on the arrest of al-Birjawi, who it identifies as a suspect in the September 1995 assassination of Shaykh Nyizar al-Halabi, head of the Islamic Charity Projects Society]

Al-Asad Reportedly Denounces Rabin Assassination

JN0611075095 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin generated worldwide condemnation. Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has condemned this incident. A senior U.S. official aboard the U.S. plane carrying the U.S. delegation, headed by President Clinton, to Israel to attend Rabin's funeral, said the Syrian president informed the United States that he condemns the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The official, who requested anonymity, said Secretary of State Warren Christopher phoned al-Asad Saturday night [4 November]. Al-Asad, he added, denounced the assassination, terming it a tragic event. [passage omitted]

Rabin Funeral, King Husayn Speech Viewed

JN0711092195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 7 Nov

[FBIS Translated Text] Occupied Palestine—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was buried in occupied Jerusalem yesterday. Several world presidents, prime ministers, and foreign ministers attended the funeral.

Commemorative speeches were delivered during the service. The speakers — including U.S. President Bill Clinton and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak — underlined the need to continue on the road to peace.

King Husayn devoted his speech to praising his relationship with Yitzhaq Rabin. He said: As long as I shall live, I will continue to be proud to have known him and to have worked with him as a brother and friend.

It was announced in occupied Jerusalem last night that the Israeli Police arrested four of Rabin's bodyguards who were escorting him when he was killed.

Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan will arrive in Israel today to visit Yitzhaq Rabin's grave and to offer condolences to his family. The Jordanian crown prince and his wife, Princess Tharwat, yesterday visited the Israeli ambassadors' residence in Amman and offered condolences on the death of Rabin. Israel radio reported that Prince Hasan wrote his condolences in the condolences book and told journalists that he feels pain and sadness and that he was shocked by Rabin's assassination.

Minister Expects 'Disturbances' in Region

JN0611203495 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 6 Nov 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut — AL-MUHARRIR — Syrian Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman has said that disturbances will certainly return to the Middle East and will affect the entire peace process if the supply and demand formula continues to dominate this process without taking into consideration the international point of reference, which is represented by Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Salman expects the state of rejection to prevail in the Arab region, which, in his view, has become more volatile. He reaffirmed that Syria will confront with all its potentials any attempt to replace Arabism in the region with Middle Easternism. Salman described this as very serious because canceling or threatening the Arab identity in this way will remove factors of impregnability and impose the Israeli plan on the region. He added that Syria is confronting this now that it has noticed that there are Arab officials who began to feel these dangers.

In the first statement of its kind by a senior Syrian official, Minister Salman noted that the popular Arab base will further rally around "the national Islamic trend" which rejects partial and inequitable agreements. These words reflect the stand which Syria would adopt to confront the attempts at circumvention and infiltration which are currently taking various forms. Salman said that his country possesses many cards which have not so far been used, adding that it would certainly use them at the appropriate time.

Minister Salman rejected any form of peace that is not harmonious with the Arab historic and strategic requirements. It is either genuine peace or the return of the region to the situation which prevailed in the past. He said that the fabricated agreements cannot survive due to the traps contained in the texts of these agreements.

Salman recalled President Hafiz al-Asad's words on the results of any battle which would be waged with Israel. The technological disparity really does exist, but Syria, which would suffer heavy losses, can also inflict heavy losses on the Israelis, "who do not frighten us." The internal Syrian front is very cohesive and cannot be infiltrated in any way. In fact, the Syrian stand is echoed throughout the Arab homeland.

The Syrian information minister said: Peace to Syria is a strategic fact. However, our concept of peace is based on the principle of justice and comprehensiveness. There cannot be peace without full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory. Salman added that time is in our favor because we base our stand on the realities of the region and because we do not build our policies on illusions or transient interests, which are imported from abroad.

Asked if the Syrian Army faces a problem in terms of modern weapons supplies, Salman "hinted" that there is no such a problem, because any threatened country resorts to all methods of confrontation and steadfastness. Salman, who preferred not to elaborate on this, appeared reassured about the sound status of the Syrian military institution and its development in light of the requirements of the Syrian strategic security. He also urged Washington to implement its initiative and make Israel come closer to Resolutions 242 and 338 instead of working far away from the international organization under which the Madrid conference convened.

Salman said: We did not and will not enter into bargaining. We maintain firm concern about the national and strategic inseparability between Syria and Lebanon. He reiterated Syria's adherence to the Arab identity of Jerusalem and to the condition of withdrawal as a basis for any peace treaty between the two parties.

Regarding the situation in Lebanon, Salman disclosed that had there been no coordination between Damascus and Beirut the differences over the issue of extending the president's term would have exceeded the known limits. He expressed his belief that extending President Ilyas al-Hirawi's term was a factor of stability, adding that this will pave the way for continuing the construction and development process. He said that this does not mean that the term of the other heads of institutions will be extended, because each institution has its own constitutional and legal rules. Asked about the proposed constitutional amendments, Salman said this concerns the representatives of the people, that is the deputies who are in charge of this file. He added that they are the ones who decide what should be done in the interest of the country.

Al-Shar' Blames Israel for 'Standstill' in Talks

AU0211135695 Vienna Oesterreich Eins Radio Network in German 1100 GMT 2 Nov 95

[Report by Brigitte Fuchs on news conference by Foreign Affairs Minister Faruq al-Shari' in Vienna on 2 November — recorded; al-Shar' speaks in English with superimposed translation into German]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Fuchs] The conference of the Mediterranean Basin countries with the EU in Barcelona in late November and the Middle East peace process were the main topics of talks conducted by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Vienna. This process got stuck in the summer — at least as far as the Israeli-Syrian dialogue is concerned — not least since Damascus, now as then, insists on a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Israel rejects any preconditions for peace talks and continues to describe Syria as a center of international terrorism, an accusation that was rejected by the Syrian foreign minister today.

[Al-Shar'] We condemn terrorism in all its forms, but we differentiate between terrorism and peoples' legitimate struggles against foreign occupiers. Yet, contrary to all logic and international practice, Israel does not consider this struggle to be resistance but terrorism. Syria does not directly support resistance, but we acknowledge people's legitimate right to resistance.

[Fuchs] Regarding the standstill in the negotiations with Israel, the Syrian foreign minister also put the blame on Israel today. It was only at the beginning of the week that the U.S. foreign secretary conveyed the Israeli desire to put off the negotiations until next year to the leadership in Damascus.

[Al-Shar'] The Israeli prime minister wanted to postpone the talks until next April. This came as a great surprise to us, because, so far, Israel has said that it wants a speedy agreement because of the Israeli elections scheduled for next year.

[Fuchs] Faruq al-Shar' criticized the decision of the U.S. Congress to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The Syrian foreign minister said that, in the entire Islamic and Arabic world, this step was regarded as an affront.

Al-Zu'bi Criticizes Term 'Middle Eastern Market'

JN0411151495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under the patronage of Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, a celebration was held at the Shahba' al-Sham in Aleppo today on the inauguration of the Aleppo symposium on the promotion of investment for 1995. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi stressed that Syria has always been, is still, and will continue to be the spring of ideas and actions to achieve Arab unity.

He said that there has always been a need to establish a common Arab market, not a Middle Eastern market. He added that this expression was derived from the lexicon of colonialist words which are hostile to the pan-Arab and national words and expressions, and which have been invented and promoted to be, along with other things, a means to obliterate the concept of the one Arab nation and common interests from the Arab citizen's mind.

Speaking about the peace process which started in the region four years ago based on a U.S. initiative, the prime minister said: Since Syria responded to the U.S. peace initiative, the Madrid talks were started on clear bases; namely, that these talks should be held to achieve an objective from which there should be no deviation; namely, the implementation of the UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as Resolution 425 on Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

He said: The talks which moved to Washington were exposed, before the eyes and ears of the world, to continuous Israeli attempts which have been and are still aimed at obstructing the peace process and violating its bases by refusing to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Al-Zu'bi stressed that the Israel's policy toward peace obstructs the peace process, saying that he who is clearly against peace is the one who has continued to occupy the Arab territories since 1967, the one who annexes Jerusalem and the Golan, continues the settlement policy and the confiscation of land, and rejects full withdrawal for full and comprehensive peace.

He added: Syria has sought and is seeking to achieve a just and comprehensive peace to which there is no alternative. [passage omitted]

Cooperation With Lebanon Called 'Model'

JN0311150095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1241 GMT 3 Nov 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi held a round of talks yesterday. Talks dealt with various current issues, foremost of which were the peace process, Arab and international affairs, and cooperation between the two sister countries. Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi expressed their satisfaction with the flourishing Syrian-Lebanese relations in all spheres.

President al-Hirawi extended the thanks of the Lebanese people and government for Syria's fraternal help, which had an effective role in realizing national reconciliation and promoting the process of building and construction. On the other hand, President al-Asad stressed that Syria will provide any assistance now and in the future.

In fact, Syrian-Lebanese relations have become a model for inter-Arab relations, which are regrettably in bad condition and do not call for optimism. Some Arabs chose what came to be known as the policy of rushing toward Israel. If we view things closely, we will find out that this is an actual term. Some Arab parties concluded cooperation agreements with Israel in nearly all spheres. These parties have never concluded similar agreements with other Arab countries.

At first glance, it might seem that these rushing parties will make great economic gains. However, facts on the ground prove that the opposite is true. Israel has always been the winner. It infiltrated, along with its goods and agents, every place. Even in the field of tourism, Israeli tourists carried with them their food and tents. Some of them even trespassed the borders of some to prove that they are in the land of the alleged greater Israel.

The painful paradox is that some Arabs are promoting the policy of cooperation with Israel at a time when the latter publicly announces that it will never return Jerusalem, which is the center of attraction of all Arabs and Muslims. Israel also declares that it will never go back to 4 June 1967 lines and that it is preparing to annex the settlements that were erected in the West Bank. These settlements alone account for two-thirds of the area of the West Bank. It is equally painful that Israel, at a time when its strikes trade contracts with some Arab parties, escalates its land and aerial acts of aggression against the villages and townships of southern Lebanon. It also perpetuates the marine blockade of southern Lebanon's ports and uses all the internationally-banned weapons to browbeat the Lebanese citizens and drive them away from their land.

Amid talk about economic cooperation, Israel also announces in public that it will not fully withdraw from the occupied Syrian lands, and that it is not concerned, at the present time, with advancing the Syrian and Lebanese peace tracks. Israel needs some time to absorb the big regional gains it has made through the Oslo agreements.

The nature of things entails that there should be broad cooperation among the Arab countries in all areas, including trade and economic areas. However, such cooperation does not exist. Some parties are now promoting cooperation with Israel — cooperation that contradicts the nature of things because Arabs will never benefit from it. Rather, such cooperation will incur losses on them in the final analysis. Only sincere Arab cooperation can bring about social and economic solutions to most of the Arab countries' problems, foremost of which are unemployment, poverty, lack of investments, and decline in development.

Given this bleak situation, Syrian-Lebanese cooperation serves as a beacon and a model to be emulated, because it emanates from the faith of the Syrians and the Lebanese in the unity of fate and goal. Moreover, such cooperation is the only means to restoring their land and rights and building an honorable future for their people.

'No Incident Whatsoever' Should Weaken Peace

JN0611154095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1236 GMT 6 Nov 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: In a few days time; that is, on 16 November, the glorious Corrective Movement will complete 25 years of its existence, during which it has managed to make great accomplishments in various walks of life. The achievements made during that period would have required a whole century if not longer to make them a reality. Construction, development, and progress are the hallmarks of the Corrective Movement. But, it remains to be said that the achievement of peace has always been the obsession of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, the leader who presided over the Corrective Movement. Since the inception of the Corrective Movement, he has advocated peace. He has unequivocally announced that Syria views the achievement of peace as a strategic objective. He has further stated that Syria will work to achieve peace in the region. Even when Syria was compelled to go to war in 1973, leader al-Asad made a loud call for peace, asserting that the yearning for peace and the sincere desire to achieve peace were the reasons for the war, for peace is incompatible with continuous aggression, with the usurpation of rights, and with humiliation.

For the past 25 years, Syria has remained loyal to its principles. It has continued to pursue peace and to work to achieve it. It has used all possible opportunities to bring security and peace to the region in order to banish the constant fear and concern over the prospects of renewed conflict, particularly since fear and concern debilitate potentials and obstruct the quest for development, progress, and construction.

Syria has reiterated its eagerness to achieve peace by constantly responding favorably to all initiatives and endeavors to overcome the difficulties standing in the way of peace efforts. It has done its utmost to salvage the peace process launched in Madrid from collapse. It has spared no effort to facilitate the endeavors of those concerned with establishing peace in the Middle East to remove the stalemate plaguing it.

No doubt, the achievement of peace is not difficult if there is true desire for peace, if there is goodwill, and also if there is absolute conviction that peace is one of the most sublime values, which, under no circumstances whatsoever, should be obstructed. Moreover, no incident whatsoever should be used as an excuse to destroy the chances for peace. Nobody can question Syria's seriousness, goodwill, and unmistakable concern for a true peace that would give each and every party its rights in all fairness. Such peace must have the components required to render it a lasting and viable peace. Such peace must provide the peoples of the region with security, safety, and a healthy environment that would enable them to use their resources and potentials in the areas of construction and development in order to build a better and more dignified future for them and their future generations. Syria has championed this kind of peace. Such peace could become a reality if the objective requirements needed to make it viable are made available. These requirements would help such peace withstand upheavals and changes. The way to achieve such peace is quite clear. The relevant international legitimacy resolutions and the U.S. initiative specify the soundest and most appropriate shortcut to a firm, lasting, and durable peace.

Press Items on Relations, 'Terrorism' Viewed

JN0211193595 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 2 Nov (SANA)—In today's editorial entitled "State Terrorism, and the State of Terrorism" by Chief Editor Turki Saqr, AL-BA'TH says the outburst of Israeli hatred and venom toward Syria following the Amman summit, which was Israeli in origin, structure, and goals, does not surprise Syria, which overtly declares its opposition to the Israeli hegemony scheme that wears a velvet glove these days to hide its fangs and sharp claws in preparation for plundering Arab wealth through its programs, sharp claws, and preplanned deals.

The paper adds: We are not surprised that having failed to suppress his fears, Shim'on Peres declares with deep concern that the region must not be controlled by the disposition of one person, meaning President Hafiz al-Asad personally, because he knows very well that President Hafiz al-Asad does not only represent himself, and that with his national and pan-Arab stands President al-Asad represents every Arab individual.

The paper points out that President Hafiz al-Asad's stand regarding the Israeli scheme is not different from that of any Arab with genuine Arab feelings. AL-BA'TH says that it is not important that very few have sold themselves, their allegiance, and identity at the cheapest of prices.

The paper adds: Peres tried to harm Syria, not knowing that he was actually enhancing its prestige and status, while his boss Rabin replayed his old rusty record which accuses Syria of terrorism and of becoming an unmatched center for state terrorism, thus brandishing the threat of war, and shirking any commitment to seek peace before the Israeli elections.

The paper expresses astonishment at the fact that those who are terrorists to the bone call others terrorists. It is widely known that Israel was the first to introduce terrorism into the region, and that it was the terrorist Zionist organizations which killed Lord (Moyne) in Egypt, and it was the Israeli officials who killed Count Bernadotte, the UN mediator, when he came to Palestine.

The paper continues: The Israeli rulers massacred civilians in Qibyah, Dayr Yasin, and in many other places, terrorized hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, and expelled and displaced them. The Israelis were the first to practice hijacking in the Middle East, and the Israeli rulers are among the wanted terrorists on the international level. Everyone knows that former Israeli Prime Minister Shamir is one of the terrorists who committed the most hideous crimes, and is wanted by more than one country.

The paper asserts that it is Israel which made terrorism a state policy and practiced it. It turned its army, security forces, and border guards into executioners, murderers, and terrorists. Their crimes reached Norway where they killed a restaurant employee on the pretext that he is a Palestinian security officer.

The paper wonders: Was it not Yitzhaq Rabin, who harps on terrorism, the one who ordered the breaking of Palestinians' bones? What more terrorism is there than the one represented by nuclear weapons which the Israeli rulers brandish to terrorize the region and its peoples?

What causes surprise, the paper continues, are those who pretend to fight terrorism while ignoring Israel's terrorism, crimes, aggression, and attacks against neighbor states. They ignore its occupation of other people's lands and its usurpation of their rights, not to mention the fact that Israeli rulers seek to stigmatize as a terrorist every Arab who resists terrorism, and aggression, and who clings to his freedom, independence, and sovereignty over his land. At the same time, they seek to legitimize occupation and the violation of international legitimacy resolutions.

The paper says: If we adopt this reversed logic, George Washington would be the master of terrorism in history. Charles de Gaulle and the French resistance during World War II would be a group of terrorists and killers, and the heroes of liberation in Vietnam and other parts of the world will be viewed as terrorists and killers.

The paper adds: The killers and those whose hands are tarnished with blood have no right to preach morals and laws and to distribute writs of accusations, they who are in the dock to answer for their crimes, killings, terrorism, aggression, and the violation of international laws.

The paper notes how the Israeli rulers vie with one another in speaking of terrorism and of war and to threaten with it. The paper adds: While they do so, the crocodile tears they have shed on their concern over peace and the peace process have not dried yet, and Rabin's slogans and his embellished statements on peace are still daubed on street walls from his previous election campaign. The paper says: Does all this not make one wonder?

The paper says: They do not want the just and comprehensive peace to which Syria abides. They want to drag Syria, sometimes by luring it and at other times by threatening it, into a humiliating peace like the one the defeatists had accepted. They also found that by resorting to such an approach they will evade the challenge of peace that Syria has raised in their face. This challenge worries and scares the Israeli rulers and foils their attempts to deceive the local and world public opinion.

AL-BA'TH concludes: The Israeli rulers want to evade the issue because they are not after real peace but a forged and con peace which Syria will never accept no matter how loud they raise their voices in threats or in accusing others of terrorism which they practiced in the past and are carrying out at present.

Further on Press

JN0311083495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 3 Nov 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its commentary today, AL-BA'TH emphasizes Syria's brotherly concern for Lebanon, noting Lebanon's commitment to fraternity and a shared destiny with its sister, Syria. The paper adds: This bond is not a matter of coincidence, chance, or transient circumstances. Rather, it is an expression of a historical heritage and a geographical, cultural, and spiritual fusion.

AL-BA'TH asserts that this state of coalescence makes Syria care for its brothers just as it cares for its own sons. Syria is also concerned about Lebanon's unity and territorial integrity, just as it cares about pan-Arab beliefs, to which it has devoted all its resources.

The paper adds: This is what Syria is like. Out of its principles, Syria insists on consolidating the victories of the Lebanese people over those who wanted to use the Lebanese people as fuel for the fire of their grudges. Syria has not stopped confronting the aggressors, because aggression against Lebanon is aggression against a people who have strong, inseparable links with Syria.

The paper notes that this conviction has been consolidated under the wise leadership of President al-Asad, the honest leader of the nation. President al-Asad was determined to save Lebanon from its ordeal. He achieved this objective and restored to Lebanon its unity and cohesion and bolstered the role of its institutions, which ended all the violations that destroyed Lebanon and its unity.

AL-BA'TH adds: Syria and Lebanon have a shared destiny and a common enemy. Therefore, Lebanon chose to establish a close bond with Syria. This attitude is admirable, genuine, and responds to pan-Arab beliefs, to which Syria has devoted all its human resources and material capabilities.

The paper concludes: There can be no peace under the shadow of aggression; there can be no peace with occupation. If the aggressors think that their aggression against Lebanon, siege of its ports, and plotting against its unity would make it change its stand that supports Syria, then they are definitely miscalculating.

In a commentary today, AL-THAWRAH says a large-scale bombardment of the villages of southern Lebanon began a few hours after the conclusion of the Amman economic summit and in the wake of the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Damascus and his talks on ways to resume the peace process and break the stalemate. This stalemate is preventing a breakthrough on the Syrian track, thanks to the Israeli policy of intransigence and stubbornness.

AL-THAWRAH says such an aggressive escalation is yet another blow to the efforts of the U.S. Administration to fulfill its commitments and implement its initiatives on the basis of the Madrid frame of reference and the resolutions of international legitimacy. This escalation is also another setback for the peace process. This setback dispels optimism and shatters hopes for security, peace, and stability in the region.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: Every now and then, Yitzhaq Rabin falsely charges Syria with terrorism. The paper rebuts these charges, saying Rabin is the one practicing state terrorism.

AL-THAWRAH stresses Syria's firm and unambiguous commitment to the principles of peace and its eagerness to implement them in full. Syria has provided several opportunities for the peace process to take off. However, Israel closed the doors to these opportunities. This position earned for Syria worldwide respect and admiration. This is manifest in the international emphasis on the importance of the Syrian role and the soundness of Syria's position that adheres to all the principles and components of a just and comprehensive peace, in line with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

The paper says this worldwide understanding of the Syrian position angers and upsets the leaders of Israel. This is because the firm Syrian position on peace has shown the world the truth of Israel's anti-peace stance.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Anyone who has been observing the practices and following the statements of the Israeli officials since the Madrid conference knows that Israel rejects the requirements of peace and defies the will of the international community. This is because Israel adheres to separate and partial solutions which were rejected by the world because they are not a good foundation for the peace aspired for by the region.

AL-THAWRAH says Rabin's most recent statements and threats emanate from the U.S. Congress decision, in which Israel found something to tantalize its expansionist ambitions and support its defiance of the will of peace. This is why Israel seeks to take advantage of this decision quickly. This decision is as hostile to international resolutions and the U.S. initiative as the Israeli position. This requires that the U.S. Administration take a stand to prove its credibility — a stand in harmony with its pledges toward peace and the United Nations, since it is a superpower, by putting pressure on Israel to make it comply with UN resolutions.

Foreign Minister Meets Austrian Counterpart

Leaders Hold News Conference

JN0211211995 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Austrian President Thomas Klestil received Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Vienna this morning. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his Austrian counterpart, Wolfgang Schuessel, held a joint news conference following their meeting. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said that Israel is responsible for miring the Middle East peace process through its constant rejection of compliance with the relevant international resolutions, which provide for exchanging land for peace.

KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY [KUNA] quoted Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' as saying, during the news conference, that Israel deliberately places large obstacles to the peace process through presenting proposals that contradict those of the peace sponsor, the United States.

He added that Israel intends to postpone peace talks until next year without giving reasons for this. He noted that Israel's practices in southern Lebanon show its lack of credibility regarding peace. Al-Shar' denied his country supports terrorism, asserting that Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon is the ugliest form of terrorism. He added that Syria disavows all forms of terrorism and distinguishes, at the same time, between acts of terrorism and the legitimate struggle.

KUNA quoted al-Shar' as saying: Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement—who was assassinated in Malta by people who are believed to be linked to the Israeli Mosad—was not a terrorist. Rather, he was a political struggler who worked for just principles which he believed were legitimate.

He went on to say that al-Shaqaqi was not necessarily responsible for the operations of the military wing of the Islamic Jihad Movement, of which he was the leader, given that the military wing in the occupied territories functions independently.

The foreign minister criticized the U.S. Congress' bill to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem. He stressed that this bill is illegitimate and contradicts UN resolutions on the status of occupied Jerusalem. Al-Shar' pointed out that this bill hurts the feelings of Arabs and also stunts peace efforts in the region.

The minister voiced his support for the principles and goals of the Mediterranean Barcelona meeting, which will be held in late November among the European Union member states and the countries abutting the Mediterranean basin.

Al-Shar Returns to Damascus

JN0311195995 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus this evening at the end of a three-day official visit to Greece and Austria during which he met with the two countries' ranking officials.

Al-Shar' said the talks he held during the visit were fruitful and positive and will help promote relations between Syria and each of the two countries and between Syria and the European Union.

In reply to a question by a SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY correspondent on his statement in Vienna yesterday regarding Israel's procrastination and the impediments it places on the peace process, al-Shar' said that Israeli Prime Minister Rabin informed the United States that Israel is not ready to activate the peace process on the Syrian track before Spring next year. However, Secretary of State Christopher told Syria the United States will pursue its efforts to overcome the obstacles preventing an agreement between the two sides on security arrangements.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Said To Give Mestiri 'List' of Names

LD0411202595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent in Peshawar has prepared a report on Afghanistan' developments. May we draw your attention to this report:

[Begin unidentified correspondent's recording] Although the fighting around the city of Kabul has calmed down, the threat of resumption of the fighting has not yet been removed. There is a fear that the fighting may flare up any minute. A Taleban source in Peshawar claimed that its forces again fired rockets on Khowaja Rawash airport [Kabul airport], as a result of which 11 government soldiers were killed. On the other hand, we have also received reports of rockets being fired on a military academy on Friday. Due to the lack of substantiating information, it is difficult to confirm or dismiss such reports.

We have also received reports on clashes in Parwan Province between the government and the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party]. The government sources say that its forces have recaptured all areas recently seized by the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami. Mr. Amin Merza'i, a Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami interpreter in Peshawar, has dismissed this claim.

On the other hand, Mowlawi Turkistani, a representative of the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan [led by Dostam] in Pakistan, has said today to Pakistan's press that President Rabbani had handed over to Mestiri [UN envoy] a list of seven names to whom President Rabbani would like to transfer power. The names are as follows:

Sebghatollah Mojaddedi [leader of National Liberation Front and head of the High Coordination Council]; Pir Sayd Ahmad Ghaylani [leader of National Islamic Front]; Ayatollah Mohseni [leader of Harakat-e Eslami, Islamic Movement]; Dr. Abdollah [spokesman for Ministry of Defense]; Dr. Arghandewal [former minister of justice]; Soltan Mahmoud Ghazi [former king's cousin]; and Mola Mohammad Ghows [one of the Taleban's leaders]

Mowlawi Turkestani said that Mahmoud Mestiri in his recent trip to Mazar-e Sharif handed over this list to General Dostam. According to Mr. Turkestani, General Dostam told Mestiri that he will accept the list, but he could not trust President Rabbani's pledges. For this purpose we have given him until 15 November to hand over power.

Mowalwi Turkestani told the Pakistani press today that if power is not handed handed over by the above date, it is very possible that a joint attack of the anti-government forces, including the National Islamic Movement and the Taleban forces, will be launched. It should be mentioned that the Afghan Government sources have not yet said anything about the existence of such a list. [end recording]

Rabbani: Taleban 'Tools' of Nation's Enemies

LD0211190795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The press office of the presidency reported to Bakhtar that esteemed professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], received this afternoon Mr. Yung, a reporter from the South Korean television, esteemed Hameda, a journalist from Reuter, and Ms Caroline Lees, a reporter with the SUNDAY TIMES of London, for an interview at the presidential palace. He answered questions put by the journalists.

In reply to a question by the South Korean reporter, the esteemed president said the following regarding a statement by the Taleban group saying that it is too late for talks and that fighting is the only way:

[Rabbani said] The forces who are embarking on fighting against the ISA and who do not want to resolve issues by talks and peaceful endeavors are tools at the hands of Afghanistan's enemies whose words and actions are not being controlled by their own wishes or determination. These forces will eventually come to believe that they have and will have no alternative except talks and reaching an understanding.

In reply to a question by the Reuter news agency, the esteemed president of our country said:

We hope that the UN envoy for Afghanistan will comprehensively assess the issues and will pay serious attention to the issue of ending foreign interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs, which is the main cause of the fighting in our country. [We hope] that in his [UN envoy Mestiri's] mission he will keep in mind all the facts regarding our country.

Taleban Reportedly Attacks Kabul With Rockets

LD0411174595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At least three rockets hit residential areas of Kabul this morning and the sound of their explosion was heard across the city. According to a report by the Central News Unit correspondent, the Katyusha rockets hit the western and northern areas of Kabul and their explosion caused no casualties.

Confirming this news, government sources announced that the rockets were fired from Taleban positions on Kabul.

Informed sources also said clashes continue between government forces, its allies, and their opponents in the west of Parwan region. This report indicates that in the past few days government forces have managed to retake some positions that they had lost during the last 15 days.

Hits Italian Embassy, Indian Envoy Home

LD0511160695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Benazir Bhutto's Taleban today fired 13 missiles at Kabul city. According to a BAKHTAR report this afternoon, the Taleban group fired missiles at the residential areas of Kabul city, which caused damage to some houses, but there is no report on number of possible casualties yet.

The report adds that a missile hit the Italian Embassy and another hit the Indian ambassador's residence and caused costly damage.

Taleban-Held Russian Crew, Families Said To Talk

LD0611131195 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, a direct telephone link took place between crew members of the Russian IL-76 aircraft, seized in August in Afghanistan by the opposition movement Taleban, and their families.

According to our correspondent's report, Vladimir Sharpatov, the crew commander, called on the Russian side to increase their efforts for freeing the pilots. Permission for arranging the telephone link was given by the Taleban on the insistence of the Russian doctors who noted signs of depression in most of the Russian crew during a recent medical examination.

India

Officials Comment on Kashmir Elections Plans

Minister Says Move 'Right Step'

BK0511162595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has described the center's decision to hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir as a right step and said that the people of the state are mentally prepared and ready for the polls. Speaking at a Meet the Press program at (Kolapur) today, he said Pakistan does not want elections in Kashmir. Mr. Chavan said that stern action would be taken against anybody trying to create disturbances during these elections. In reply to a query, the home minister said Kashmir has a special status, and there is nothing new in giving special titles to the chief minister and governor of the state.

Election Official on Decision

BK0611162195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Election Commission will take a decision on holding elections in Jammu and Kashmir only after the visit of the three election commissioners to the state on Wednesday [8 November]. This was stated by the chief election commissioner, Mr. T.N. Seshan, while addressing a press conference in Calcutta today. He said reports from all quarters and views of the political parties in the state will be considered carefully before taking the decision.

The president of the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh [State] Congress-I, Mr. Ghulam Rasool Kar, has said that only a popular government constituted through elections can help in an early restoration of normalcy in the state. He said majority of the people in the state are in favor of the assembly elections.

Mr. Kar was addressing a public meeting at (Tandar Karna) in the border district of Kupwara today. He said people have suffered a lot under militancy and elections are most potent means to expose the designs of the militants.

The Janata Dal says the Center should initiate consultations with various sections of people in Jammu and Kashmir to reach a consensus on elections. The party president, Mr. S.R. Bommai, in a statement issued in New Delhi today, said preliminary political process should be started before fixing the election date to infuse confidence among the people. He said the Janata Dal has always favored early poll in Jammu and Kashmir.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has criticized the government for allowing the [Kashmir All Parties] Hurriyat Conference to open an office in New Delhi. In a statement, the party spokesperson, Miss Sushma Swaraj, said the step is a legitimization of terrorist activities by Pakistan's supported groups.

Leader Calls For 'Fair Elections'

BK0711085095 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Conference leader, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, has again expressed reservations about the recently announced Kashmir initiative. In an interview, Dr. Abdullah has, however, said he believes that free and fair elections in Jammu and Kashmir are necessary to bring about peace in the state.

[Begin abdullah's recording] What I would want is free, fair elections without the fear of gun, whether of the forces or of the militants. And, I am quite sure that Pakistan is not going to allow a free and fair elections. [end recording]

Dr. Abdullah said that the security situation in the state is better now. He said all Kashmiris want to live as part of India and progress with the rest of the country.

Troops Said Deployed for Kashmir Elections

BK0411135395 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has rushed several thousand additional troops to the held [Kashmir] valley in preparation for the elections already boycotted by the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Informed sources say the number of troops is around 100,000. PTV special correspondent in Srinagar, Ghulam Nabi Khayal, has the details:

[Begin recording] [Khayal] Tens of thousands of troops are being rushed to Kashmir from different Indian states to beef up security arrangements for the forthcoming assembly elections in the state, highly placed sources said. According to PRESS TRUST OF INDIA news agency, the number of such troops is estimated to be 25,000 soldiers, but the sources said that about 100,000 personnel are being deployed in the valley, where people have decided to boycott elections. The All Parties Hurriyat Conference is launching an agitation against holding of elections, and the fighters outfits have threatened to stall the poll process with the use of guns and other retaliatory measures. The government has offered use of bulletproof vehicles and a stringent security measures to all possible candidates, but there are no takers among the people.

Meanwhile, the Hurriyat Conference has alleged that the Indian Government has hatched a conspiracy to eliminate popular leaders to deprive the struggling Kashmiris of their political leadership. The Conference has condemned assassination attempts on the lives of Hurriyat leaders, including Syed Ali Shah Gilani, Abdul Gani Lone, and Mohammad Yasin Malik.

[Gilani] We are 100 percent sure it is a polemic of Indian Army forces, because they want to eliminate the political leadership so that they will be able to crush the movement.

[Khayal] In response to a call given by the Conference, complete strike all over the state of Jammu and Kashmir was observed Friday [3 November] to protest against what it called frustrated acts of state terrorism.

Ghulam Nabi Khayal for PTV news, Srinagar. [end recording]

'Major' Parties Discuss Kashmir Elections

BK0511094895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Major political parties have reacted to the Union cabinet's decision to hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Welcoming it, the All India Congress-I joint secretary in charge of Jammu and Kashmir said this will meet the aspirations of the people of the state and lead to its faster and planned development. Mr. Ved Prakash also said that, with the setting up of new industries, more employment opportunities will be available to Kashmiri youths.

The National Conference leader, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, said the working committee of the party will discuss in detail various aspects of offer made by the center. It will also take a decision on the participation of the National Conference in the proposed election.

The Bharatiya Janata Party president, Mr. Lal Krishna Advani, has said that ending terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir is more important than holding of elections. Mr. Advani said that the real issue is not the election but ending militancy in the valley.

According to the Janata Dal, the atmosphere is still not conducive to hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir. The party leader, Mr. Sharad Yadav, said conditions are to be created first to ensure free and fair polls there.

The former union minister, Dr. Karan Singh, has suggested a dialogue at the state and national levels on the political package for Jammu and Kashmir before holding elections there. In a statement in New Delhi today, he said the political package unveiled by the prime minister has some positive features. Dr. Karan Singh however said that it falls short of expectations of the people both in the Kashmir valley and in Jammu region.

The Panthers Party has welcomed the decision to hold elections in Jammu and Kashmir. In a statement, the party president, Professor Bhim Singh, demanded that the package should also be announced for Jammu and other regions of the state.

As reported the Union cabinet has decided to hold election in the middle of next month after considering the recommendations of the group of ministers. The government has conveyed its decision to the Election

Commission and sent a report indicating the ground situation in the state.

Kashmiris Reportedly Reject 'Sham Elections'

BK0511143595 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In occupied Kashmir, mojahedin have accelerated their attacks on Indian military objectives, vowing to nullify Indian Government's efforts to hold sham elections in the valley to hoodwink world opinion. Severe clashes took place between mojahedin and India forces in Khaniar, Nava Bazaar, and Kar Mohalla area of Srinagar, resulting in heavy casualties to Indian forces. The clashes took place when Indian forces besieged these areas and started beating and torturing the people. Mojahedin attacked Indian forces and killed and wounded a number of soldiers. In another clash in (Minigul) village of Islamabad-Anantnag, one soldier was killed and three injured. A clash also took place in a border village of Kupwara in which three soldiers were killed. Mojahedin attacked a military patrol in Kupwara and inflicted heavy casualties. They ambushed a military post in Karen and destroyed it.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir All Parties Hurriyat Conference has reiterated that no everlasting solution to the Kashmir problem is possible without granting the right of self-determination to the Kashmiri people. This has been stated by leaders of the Hurriyat Conference during the inaugural ceremony of the Kashmir Awareness Bureau in New Delhi today. A report by PTV special correspondent Ghulam Nabi Khayal at New Delhi:

[Begin recording] [Khayal] The All Parties Hurriyat Conference of Jammu and Kashmir State has reiterated that there could be no everlasting solution of the Kashmir problem, except for granting the Kashmiris their right of self-determination, which has been conceded to them not only by the United Nations, but also by India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. These observations were made by the acting chairman of the conference at the inaugural function of the Kashmir Awareness Bureau here in New Delhi this afternoon. Chairman Syed Ali Shah Gilani said:

[Gilani] The Hurriyat Conference and the people of Jammu and Kashmir are of firm opinion and [words indistinct] that the right to self-determination standard agreed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the present ongoing freedom struggle has been launched to persuade India to allow the people to exercise this right.

[Khayal] That was Hurriyat Conference Acting Chairman Syed Ali Shah Gilani.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by a number of diplomats, prominent Indian personalities, including politicians, human rights activists, judges, journalists, and others intellectuals.

Earlier, a handful of runaway Kashmiri Hindus staged a demonstration at the function and tried to disrupt the proceedings. They were whisked away by the police and taken into custody for disturbing a lawful gathering.

Syed Gilani said that India has been writing a very ugly history of Kashmir, particularly for the last six years, with unabated human rights violations committed by its forces on all fronts of human rights. He called upon the Indian opposition leaders to demand a probe into these violations. Mr. Gilani said the proposed elections are no answer to the 48-year old Kashmir dispute. India has been occupying the state against the will of its people, and he believed this forcible occupation cannot last longer.

The Former Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral was speaking at the function when the reports last came in.

Ghulam Nabi Khayal for PTV news, New Delhi, India. [end recording]

Successful Test Flight of Trishul Missile Noted

BK0511145695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The quick reaction, short-range surface-to-air missile, Trishul [Trident], was successfully flight tested at the interim test range in Chandipur, Orissa yesterday. The command guided flight test of the missile for the Army is its 29th flight test and an important milestone before the system is offered for user trial. The launch was from a Trishul combat vehicle, an autonomous track vehicle with surveillance and tracking radars. The vehicle has a missile-guided system to intercept aircraft flying at very low levels.

Maharashtra Government To Continue Enron Talks

BK0511105095 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Maharashtra government is to go ahead with the renegotiation with the Enron Company regarding the Dabhol power project without insisting on the stoppage of the company's arbitration proceedings. The chief minister, Mr. Manohar Joshi, today had a meeting with the renegotiation committee members in Bombay, along with the deputy chief minister and senior officials. The renegotiation committee had its first meeting with Enron representatives in Bombay today. It is to submit its report to the state cabinet by the end of this month or early next month.

Article on BJP Prospects, 'Difficult Phase'

96AS0007C Jaipur RAJASTHAN PATRIKA in Hindi 28 Sep 95 p 6

[Editorial: "BJP Immersed in Internal Conflict"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] is passing through a difficult phase in Gujarat. [passage ommitted]

It is hard to imagine that the internal party disputes and differences of the party that gained power with a large majority during the last Vidhan Sabha elections have become so serious. This is clearly indicative of undiscipline and internal weakness of the party. Where will it end is anybody's guess. These Gujarat experiences are not healthy for a party that dreams of capturing power in the next Parliamentary elections. It is natural for the leaders in power to show arrogance but it is extraordinary for the BJP, a party with limited regional influence, to show such tendencies. If the BJP had learned from the history of other national political parties it would have killed these trends before they bloomed. The senior leadership is clearly responsible for this deterioration. The Gujarat events are none the less taking place for the lust of power. The senior party leaders should remember that the reason for the downfall of the Congress (I) was its long reign. For the first time in power, in Gujarat, the party gets besieged by power politics and that too on the issue of portfolios. This displays a sharply rising power hunger among the party leaders.

It cannot be denied that the BJP, in all the five states where it gained power, is infested with internal grief. The happenings in Madhya Pradesh where the internal party conflict continues even after the fall of the party are a living example. The leadership is engaged in vying to degrade each other. The BJP as far as Rajasthan is concerned, is in power due to its alliance with independent legislators but the internal party conflict is amply visible. Strong leadership has kept it under control. The party is also not doing all that well in Himanchal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Bihar and Karnataka are, however, two states where the BJP has fared well but it will be a mistake to believe that the party enjoys a strong base there. To accept weakness of other parties as your strength cannot be considered wise. The patch work to conceal the deteriorating condition of party organization in other states simply indicates that the party leadership is hiding its weakness.

The Lok Sabha elections are very near. The fact that the party will decisively suffer due to internal conflicts should not be overlooked. The BJP had assured that once it is in power it will provide a clean administration to the nation. But the BJP demonstrations in certain states have lowered that expectation and the happenings in Gujarat have badly injured the party image. Today, BJP groups are openly accusing each other with such viciousness that even the opposition will hesitate to do. The formation of an "Injustice Abolition Committee"? inside the party is a clear indication of serious internal party conflict. It also explains that the strife is in fact a power struggle. The party needs to sincerely invest in serious soul searching if it aims to rule the country, and in order to maintain internal party discipline it will have to make some hard decisions, otherwise the very existence of the party may be in danger, and for this the party leadership will be held responsible.

Iran

Nateq-Nuri Addresses U.S. Future, 'Clout'

NC0411102195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0533 GMT 4 Nov 95

[Interview with Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri by unidentified Tehran VIRI correspondent in Tehran "prior to the speaker's visit to Austria, Ireland, and Qatar" — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Your Excellency Mr. Nateq-Nuri. I express my gratitude to you for being with us for this interview. In your capacity as the speaker of the Islamic Majles, and as one who knows international policies, how do you view the future of the United States on the international and domestic level?

[Nateq-Nuri] It is very clear. The United States once projected itself as an invincible bastion in its opinion, especially after the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Earlier there were two powers, the East and the West; the United States saw itself as the embodiment of the West. When the Soviet Union collapsed, the United States saw itself as the sole power that could stomp over the international arena and make decisions wherever it wanted to.

As you can see, in the central Asian countries, in the newly independent countries, the United States could not attain its goals. It was defeated in that area. In Russia itself, you saw that Clinton went to Russia to convince Yeltsin not to sign any agreement with us on nuclear energy, but this had no effect. This tiger has aged and has lost its fur on the international arena.

It sought to exert pressure on the PRC not to have any such agreements with us, but this was to no avail. The U.S. embargo had no effect either. Recently, because the veto is a tyrannical measure, there was a general tendency in the United Nations on the part of countries that this organization should remove itself from the influence of big powers, so that human rights may be safeguarded. This has endangered the international position of the United States.

Domestically, the issue of the [march by] blacks is an important and new phenomenon, the magnitude of which had not been anticipated by the United States or the rest of the world. Martin Luther King, the freethinking leader of the blacks, once initiated a movement, but not one of this scale. Even then the United States could not tolerate it and they assassinated him. Today, the blacks brought a gathering of a million to the streets of Washington and stood up against the White House.

This was the quantitative aspect. Qualitatively, the Muslims, even the Christians shouted "God is Great," "There is no god but Allah." However, more important than the numbers is the uttering of these cries; this is evidence of the religious bias of this march.

This is reminiscent of certain remarks by our great leader who said: This is tantamount to the export of the Revolution, the imam has penetrated deep into the hearts of U.S. blacks and conquered their sentiments. Sooner or later there will be an internal explosion in the United States. Shock waves will generate that will have a distinct impact.

In addition, political and group differences exist and the moral and ethical decadence and corruption in the United States has drained the judicial authorities from within. Crime, the breakup of the family unit, and, as you see today, the situation is such that in the Olympic games, scientific contests, research, and all that pertains to thought, intelligence, and management, the United States is no longer first. This moral decadence and degeneration that has set in will put the United States onto a downhill course with regard to morals, culture, and decorum.

Besides the internal political problems, the United States does not have much clout internationally, and one feels that in the not too distant future this hollow paper tiger that has lost its fur will retreat to snore in a corner and sing its swansong regarding its position as a superpower.

Radio Feature Marks U.S. Embassy Occupation

NC0411111095

[Editorial Report] Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 0533 GMT on 4 November begins transmission of a one-hour, 53-minute "special feature" entitled "Combating the Satan," marking the occupation of the U.S. "espionage den" [U.S. Embassy] in Tehran, the exile of Khomeyni from Iran, and an attack on Tehran University students by the shah.

The program begins by reviewing the events that led to the Islamic Revolution that toppled the shah. Next, praise is given to the students who seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran after it was found that "the U.S. Embassy in Tehran was the center of the organization and implementation of plots against the Islamic Revolution."

"By taking the U.S. spies hostage, the students dealt a very fundamental blow to the prestige and clout of the United States as a superpower, which was unprecedented in its 200-year history."

The feature is interspersed with verbose remarks on the greatness of the Islamic Revolution and the valor of the "student followers of the imam's line," and patriotic music with the refrain "Death to America."

At 0544 GMT a segment of remarks by Ayatollah Khamene'i on the occasion is carried but there is no indication whether it is a previous or new recording. Khamene'i speaks of the Democrat U.S. President [Carter] who came to Iran during the shah's tenure and assured him of his support, a result of which was a massive campaign of suppression carried out against the Iranian people.

At 0547 GMT remarks by Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val- Moslemin Nateq-Nuri "prior to his visit to Austria, Ireland, and Qatar" are carried. An excerpt of a recording carrying Nateq-Nuri's interview is carried on the significance of the occasion. He recounts the events leading to Khomeyni's exile, the attack on Tehran University students by the shah's forces, and the seizure of the "den of U.S. spies." He says:

"This sweet incident on 13 Aban [4 November] was the occupation of the espionage den, which exposed the United States and its blatant interference in our internal affairs.

"We found documents that revealed the U.S. Embassy was a center of conspiracy against the Islamic Republic of Iran's government and therefore the day has been rightfully named the day of combating the powers of world arrogance."

Excerpts of recordings by Khomeyni denouncing the shah, the United States, and the "capitulation bill" made when he was in exile and later when he was in Iran, are carried throughout the feature. Random correspondent interviews with unidentified persons on the significance of the occasion and their participation in the marches are followed by a brief newscast at 0530 GMT.

At 0645 GMT Brigadier Seyfollahi, one of the spokesmen for the "student followers of the imam's line during the time of the occupation of the den of U.S. spies," is interviewed for the event. He speaks on the high level of motivation of the students and their "indignation at the arch-Satan, U.S. atrocities, and its support for the idolatrous [shah's] regime, which had conjured up a very hateful image in the minds of the Iranian people."

Remarks noting that the U.S. blocking of Iran's assets and its economic embargo against Iran did not elicit the desired response are presented followed by concluding remarks by Nateq-Nuri at 0720 GMT, who says:

"In my opinion, it is very clear that the United States projected itself as an invincible bastion in its opinion, especially after the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Earlier there were two powers, the East and the West; the United States considered itself the embodiment of the West."

The feature concludes at 0726 GMT with a reminder to the people to participate in the ceremonies scheduled to begin at 1400 Tehran time [1030 GMT].

Commentary on 'Day of Struggle'

NC0411120495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 4 Nov 95

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Various groups and sections of people in our country are to participate in the 13 Aban "Yawm Allah" [Day of God] ceremonies today and will express their hatred of the powers of world arrogance, especially the United States, by shouting slogans.

The date of 4 November has been named the national day of struggle against the powers of world arrogance; it is a turning point in the history of the Islamic Revolution that marks the occurrence on this date of three important and fateful Revolution events. The exile of Imam Khomeyni (may his soul be sanctified), the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 4 November in 1343 [year beginning 21 March 1964] was the first such event.

On that day, the first step was taken for the advent of the Islamic Revolution. The internal and external enemies thought that by segregating the revolution from the nation, they would be able to nip it in the bud and exiled Imam Khomeyni—may God be pleased with him—from Qom to Turkey. Even though this ploy of the enemy separated the leader of the revolution from the nation as regards location, it could not distance them regarding thoughts and emotions.

Through various means of communication, the Iranian people received the messages of the imam and continued on the path of the revolution. In 1357 [year beginning 21 March 1978], which was the height of the currents of the revolution, another phenomenon occurred on 4 November that accelerated the revolutionary movement of the Iranian nation and brought victory even closer.

On 13 Aban 1357, the students who had congregated at Tehran University to express their abhorrence at the repressive and criminal actions of the Pahlavi regime were fired upon by the despotic forces and martyred. The martyrdom of students was a catalyst that fanned the fury and loathing of the people against the tyrannical monarchical regime, which ignited the fire of the Iranian people's revolutionary rage and toppled the Pahlavi regime.

During all these stages, the United States supported the despotic Pahlavi regime and backed its criminal actions. This support continued while Carter had hoisted the false banner of human rights and bandied claims of safeguarding human rights. With the victory of the Islamic Revolution in the month of Bahman [21 January-19 February] in 1357, when the Iranian nation was trying to reconstruct the devastation wrought by the tyrannical monarchical regime, the U.S. conspiracies continued against the Iranian people.

While the Iranian nation had given the U.S. Embassy in Tehran permission to operate in Iran, the United States had transformed its embassy into a center for espionage. It sought to forge contacts with the counterrevolutionaries and opponents of the hallowed system of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to implement its plot against the Iranian people.

The United States endeavored to divert the Islamic Revolution from its course since it had failed to thwart its victory and to steer it on the path that it favored. The attainment of this U.S. objective could have resulted in the revolution being deviated from its path and ultimately the elimination of Islamic values and the return of U.S. values. When the Iranian nation realized these plots, the den of U.S. spies was occupied and the U.S. spies were expelled from the country.

The occupation of the U.S. den of spies halted the deviation of the Islamic Revolution and resulted in undermining the awe surrounding the United States as an invincible superpower and eliminating any fear of confronting the United States. Accordingly on 4 November 1979, another action transpired that ensured that the revolution remained firmly entrenched on its course and resulted in the disillusionment of the United States.

The appraisals and analyses of political experts on the U.S. approach to Iran regarding the 4 November events shows that the consecutive errors committed by the United States are what resulted in its defeat and the triumph of the Iranian nation. Its first mistake was the U.S. suggestion and recommendation that Imam Khomeyni be exiled from Iran to nip the revolution in the bud. However not only did this not happen, the revolution forged ahead with greater strength.

In the subsequent mistakes, the United States called Iran "an island of stability" and proposed to the shah that he suppress all protests to prevent any disruption of this stability. Hence, the students were martyred; but this not only did not hamper the victory of the revolution, it made it even stronger. Instead of recognizing the revolution and the wishes of the Iranian people officially, the United States then embarked on plots against it, the result of which was the wrathful attitude of the Iranian nation against the United States, which continues.

Even now, the United States has not learned a lesson from its consecutive mistakes in its approach to Iran. With threats and embargoes it is seeking to hinder the Iranian nation from treading its chosen path. All these actions—even according to the Americans themselves—are more to the detriment of the United States than of Iran.

IAEA Reportedly Confirms 'Peaceful' Efforts

*LD0611222995 Tehran IRNA in English
2149 GMT 6 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karaj (Central Province), Nov 6, IRNA — Two experts of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) here on Monday [6 November] confirmed that Iran's nuclear energy projects were entirely for peaceful purpose.

The experts who are in the Islamic Republic of Iran along with other officials of the IAEA told IRNA that they have not observed any case at Iran's nuclear energy projects contrary to the regulations set by the international convention.

Dr. Vlado Valkovich, the head of physics and chemistry laboratory and specialist in precise devices of the IAEA in Australia, said Iran has made progress in application of nuclear analysis techniques and the use of accelerators and the cyclotron in the medical and agricultural nuclear research center in Karaj.

On the propaganda campaign of the U.S. against Iranian nuclear power projects, he said, "We, the scientists, are not willing to hear rumors and only think about the reality, our duty is to promote the application of accelerators in Iran and we believe in doing works for promotion of human life."

Another expert of the IAEA, Dr. Frank Watt, British microscopist and instructor of National University of Singapore, said the facilities at the medical and agricultural nuclear research center of Karaj is comparable with that of the Far-East and the developed countries.

He said the team working in the research center of Karaj holds high scientific qualification and would help contribute to Iran's industrial development.

Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto Pays Official Visit

Leads Talks Delegation

*LD0611095195 Tehran IRNA in English
0912 GMT 6 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 6, IRNA — The Pakistani prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, heading a high-ranking political and economic delegation, arrived here today for a three-day official visit to review bilateral relations as well as current regional and international developments.

She was welcomed at Mehrabad Airport by President 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and a number of senior Iranian officials.

Mutual cooperation, current international developments and problems of the world of Islam will be among major topics to be discussed by Bhutto and President Rafsanjani.

She will also discuss bilateral parliamentary relations with Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri.

Upon her arrival, Prime Minister Bhuto attended the mausoleum of the late Imam Khomeyni and paid tribute to the founder of the Islamic revolution.

She is due to leave Tehran for Mashhad Tuesday [7 November] to pay a pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (a.s.), the eighth imam of the household of the Prohphet Mohammad (pbuh), in the northeastern province of Khorasan.

The first round of formal talks between President Rafsanjani and Prime Minister Bhutto will be held this afternnoon.

Four agreements in different fields of economy, joint venture, radio and television and chambers of commerce are expected to be signed by the two countries during Bhutto's stay here.

This is Prime Minister Bhutto's second trip to the Islamic Republic of Iran. She first visited Iran two years ago.

Views Bilateral Ties With Rafsanjani

LD0611122595 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistani Prime Minister Mrs Benazir Bhutto arrived in Tehran for a three-day visit to our country few hours ago. Our country's president Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani officially welcomed Pakistani Prime Minister Mrs Benazir Bhutto at Tehran's Mehrabad airport. This is Mrs Benazir Bhutto's third official visit to Tehran since she took office in Pakistan and it is aimed at expanding bilateral and regional cooperation and exchanging views on international issues and developments.

A senior delegation, including the ministers of foreign affairs, water and power, commerce, deputy prime minister in charge of economic affairs, members of the national and regional assemblies and the secretary general of the Jafari jurisprudence [organization], as well as the Mrs Bhutto's husband, are accompanying her.

After her arrival in Tehran, the Pakistani prime minister spoke about the strengthening of historical and cultural relations between the two countries and emphasized that strengthening friendly relations and expanding cooperation with Tehran is of great importance for Islamabad which will not withhold any effort toward these ends.

Our country's president Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani likewise spoke about relations between Islamabad and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Begin Rafsanjani recording] We have [to discuss] both regional and bilateral relations. Fortunately our bilateral relations basically concern the expansion of cooperation. Regional issues, unfortunately, are more concerned with the existing regional crisis. Because of the two countries' positions and coordination, both Iran and Pakistan can help toward solving these issues. [end recording]

Expresses 'Regret' Over U.S. Sanctions

LD0611202195 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1900 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first round of talks between Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani was held in Tehran tonight.

In this meeting, Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed happiness about the visit by the Pakistani prime minister and her accompanying delegation. He said: Considering the sensitive circumstances prevailing in Asia, it is essential that the two countries should exchange views on a more frequent basis.

He referred to the Islamic Republic of Iran's endeavors to make ECO [the Economic Cooperation Organization] more active. He said: Establishing ECO's shipping company is one of these steps while in addition the construction of ECO's headquarters in Tehran will soon be completed [sentence as heard].

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: The countries of the region can use Iran's roads and railways for transporting goods and commercial exchanges between ECO members and the countries of central Asia. The president, moreover, expressed Iran's readiness to build a joint refinery [with Pakistan], construct a pipeline to transfer natural gas to Pakistan, engage in joint investment in textile industries and exchange goods with Pakistan.

Benazir Bhutto, for her part, said that Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Iran and believed that political, economic, and cultural ties between the two Muslim countries should be expanded even further.

The Pakistani prime minister expressed regret at the U.S. decision to impose economic and commercial sanctions on Iran. She said: Pakistan believes that any move to isolate Iran will worsen regional tension.

She referred to the Kashmir problem and thanked Iran for its efforts to bring greater understanding on this issue between India and Pakistan. Furthermore, she called for Iranian mediation between the two countries.

Bhutto also paid tribute to Iran's efforts aimed at creating fundamental grounds for making the ECO more active and developing the transport routes linking the member states of this organization.

She referred to the importance of the project on the transfer of Iranian natural gas to Pakistan and said: Pakistan wants this project to be implemented with Iranian participation.

Further on Talks With Rafsanjani

NC0711091595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first round of talks between President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was held yesterday. The Central News Unit reports that during this meeting, the president referred to the need for more exchanges of views between the two countries considering the sensitive conditions prevalent in Asia. He said there are many fields in which the two sides can cooperate. Commenting on the Islamic Republic's principled stand on Kashmir, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: We respect what the Kashmiri people want.

Referring to the Islamic Republic's efforts to promote the Economic Cooperation Organization—ECO—in the region, and specifically to create an ECO shipping organization and the setting up of the ECO secretariat in Tehran, Hashemi-Rafsanjani listed the effective steps that are being taken in Iran to expand international transit routes among the regional countries. He added: With the completion of the Kerman-Zahedan railway, Pakistan will be linked to the Central Asian countries via Iran.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also expressed Iran's readiness to implement joint projects to build refineries, ship gas to Pakistan, invest in the textile industry, and promote bilateral trade.

During the meeting, Benazir Bhutto also referred to the significance of Iran-Pakistan relations and said that past talks among the two countries' officials has been extremely useful. She added: Islamabad believes that the political and economic relations between the two Muslim countries should expand constantly.

The Pakistani prime minister regretted the U.S. decision to impose economic and trade sanctions on Iran. She said: Iran is an important strategic country in the region. Pakistan considers that any effort to isolate Iran exacerbates friction in the region.

Benazir Bhutto also thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its efforts to promote understanding between India and Pakistan on the Kashmiri issue, and she called for Tehran to mediate between Islamabad and New Delhi on this issue.

Referring to the significance of the plan for a gas pipeline to ship Iranian gas to Pakistan and India, the Pakistani prime minister said: Pakistan wants Iran's participation in this project.

Before the meeting between the two delegations, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto held a brief meeting where they discussed bilateral relations, international and regional relations, the problems of the Islamic world, and the current developments in Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Kashmir.

Thanks Iran for Kashmir 'Support'

BK0711074595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan and Iran have unanimity of views on Afghanistan, and they are making efforts toward a peaceful and durable solution of the crisis. Talking to newsmen in Tehran yesterday after her talks with the Iranian president, she said Pakistan and Iran are in favor of a representative government in Afghanistan, and want to see Afghanistan a prosperous country. She said Pakistan is not interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

She thanked the Iranian leadership for its support to Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. She said her visit to Iran was very important because of the changing international situation, and her talks with the Iranian leaders will go a long way in solving regional problems.

Talking to newsmen, Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the two countries enjoy cordial bilateral relations and regional problems will have to be addressed with mutual understanding.

Denies 'Rivalry' Over Afghanistan

NC0711102795 Paris AFP in English 0926 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov 7 (AFP) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto denied here on Tuesday [7 November] any rivalry between her country and Iran for influence in their common neighbor Afghanistan.

"Those who spread baseless rumors about differences between Iran and Pakistan seek to create division," she said in a speech to the Iranian parliament. "They can not even dream of such a rivalry between the two brotherly nations," the prime minister said. "We do not change our friends with the season."

The prime minister arrived here Monday for a three-day official visit seeking to end a row with Iran over her country's alleged support for the Afghan Islamic militia, the Taleban.

The militia's stunning capture of three provinces in western Afghanistan bordering Iran in early September sent a wave of alarm through the Iranian leadership, which distrusts the anti-Shiite fundamentalist group.

Iranian officials and the press suspect the United States and Pakistan of manipulating the Taleban in an attempt to create an Islamic government in Afghanistan unfriendly to Iran.

Bhutto said Islamabad favored a political settlement in Afghanistan through "power-sharing between all factions" in that country. "No group in Afghanistan has enough influence to be able to rule the country alone," she said.

It was her second trip to Iran since she became prime minister in October 1993.

Says Islam 'Binds' Nations

LD0711110895 Tehran IRNA in English
1011 GMT 7 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA — Pakistani Prime Minister Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto stressed here Tuesday [7 November] that if any party seeks to undermine the security of Iran, the Iranian nation knows it can rely on Pakistan and if anyone tries to undermine the security of Pakistan, the Pakistani nation knows it can rely on Iran.

Addressing the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majles), she added that the Islamic revolution in Iran came about as the result of a long struggle, the sacrifices of many martyrs and the sufferings of a lot more. It was the popular uprising of a people determined to take charge of their own destiny.

The Islamic revolution was closely followed by the rest of the world and fiercely defended by the people of Iran, she stated.

"We are glad that peace has now dawned and the people of Iran are engaged in the task of nation building under the guidance of their new elected representatives."

Iran and Pakistan are not only two neighboring countries but we are two Muslim countries, she said, adding that Islam binds these two nations together in a spiritual bond which others cannot share in the same manner.

"We consider Iran a friend, a neighbor, a brother in Islam," she noted, further stating that those who are jealous of the friendship between Iran and Pakistan, those who would like to see the security of Iran and Pakistan weakened, those who would like to create differences between the two leading members of the Muslim ummah, probably would like to see Iran and Pakistan as rivals and in competition with each other.

"Neither the leadership, the governments, the people nor the elected representatives of Iran and Pakistan can dream of the day when we would be rivals or compete with each other," Bhutto stressed.

If Iran and Pakistan have raised their voice for the people of Kashmir, Palestine, Bosnia, Afghanistan, "it is because Islam binds upon us to speak the truth and uphold the banner of justice or the just cause," she said.

Commenting on the situation in Kashmir, she noted that more than 600,000 occupying troops have failed to crush the indomitable spirit of the Kashmiri people.

Dawn to dusk curfews, gang rapes of women, summary trials, arbitrary detention, custodial deaths, widespread torture are some of the atrocities committed, she underlined.

Acts of sacrilege have been carried out in an attempt to destroy the freedom movement, she said, adding such acts have provoked the sensibilities of the Kashmiri people, the Muslim people and all people who oppose sacrilege.

Such acts which were aimed not only against the Kashmiri people but against all Muslims cannot be forgotten by the Kashmiri people, she stressed.

"Pakistan and Iran stand shoulder to shoulder in support of the Kashmiri people in their struggle for self-determination," Bhutto underlined.

Pakistan and Iran have condemned Serbian aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina, she pointed out and remarked that the world has shown a dismal failure to put into place security mechanisms to uphold the charter of the United Nations.

However, she said, the tragedy in Bosnia has made one thing clear, that is, each nation must be prepared to defend itself, and if it cannot defend itself, it will be swallowed up and blotted out.

The Pakistani prime minister reiterated that unless a country has a strategic importance to the rest of the world, the rest of the world will ignore it or be slow in responding to it.

Referring to the critical situation in Afghanistan, she observed that the world united when Afghanistan was under foreign occupation to defend not only freedom in Afghanistan but to defend the free world.

"Now that there is not a threat to the free world, Afghanistan is a forgotten global story," she said.

Since that country has no bearing on the flow of global commerce, it has no impact on world opinion, she stressed and added, except for a handful of countries, the world has forgotten Afghanistan.

"We continue to give refuge to 1.5 million Afghan refugees because the acts against us by the Kabul regime do not reflect the wishes of the vast majority of the Afghan people," she stated, "we want the Afghans to solve their problems themselves."

Both Iran and Pakistan, indeed all geographical neighbors of Afghanistan, are concerned about the instability in that country and will continue to watch over the situation closely, she said.

Different groups will need to come together and decide on a formula of power sharing, she suggested, and such an event will help expedite a political situation.

Elsewhere in her speech, the Pakistani prime minister said, "In our region, one country is building up a mighty military arsenal. It is determined to build a blue water navy."

She stressed, "It has started production of short range missiles which can be deployed in half an hour," adding, "these missiles can target every single city in Pakistan."

"These missiles are capable of carrying nuclear warheads," Bhutto said and noted, "After this, this country intends to develop more missiles with a greater range."

"The development of such missiles will cast the shadow of nuclear threat to the sovereignty of Iran, Iraq, Syria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia to the west and to Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Brunei to the east," the Pakistani premier underscored.

Pakistan calls for a regional solution to the missile issue, she said, adding Pakistan does not wish to see nuclear proliferation or the spread of the weapons of mass destruction.

Commenting on the role of Iranian women in the society, she said, "As a Muslim woman, it gladdens my heart to see my Iranian sisters take their place with pride in the Iranian parliament."

The Pakistani prime minister reiterated that the large participation by the Muslim women in a conference of women parliamentarians from Muslim countries which was held in Pakistan, showed that a great awakening is taking place amongst the Muslim women.

"Women in Islam must be accorded respect, dignity and rights bequeathed by Allah in the Holy Book as recited by the holy prophet (pbuh)," she concluded.

Daily Addresses 'Tension' in Pakistan Relations

NC0311135995 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Oct 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Bhutto's Visit Heralding Solution to Afghan Imbroglio"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Heading a high-ranking delegation, Pakistan's prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is to visit Iran next week.

A response to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Pakistan in March, Bhutto's visit is within the framework of annual visits between top officials of the two countries for exchanging views on mutual relations and regional as well as international developments.

It is likely that the two countries will sign several agreements during Bhutto's three-day visit and exchange views on Afghanistan and Kashmir.

It is believed that the outcome of the talks on Afghanistan will be of paramount importance. Indeed, developments in Afghanistan over the past few months have become a source of tension to Iran-Pakistan friendly relations. Pakistan's relations with the government of Burhanuddin Rabbani have turned gloomy. The effects of this trend have been witnessed even at the United Nations. As a result, the ensuing tension has found undiplomatic ramifications intensifying the Afghan civil war.

This is not the first time Pakistan's stance vis-a-vis Afghanistan makes the Afghan problem more complicated.

Bhutto's visit to Tehran will hopefully herald a new phase in problem-solving at a regional level indicating that Pakistan is no more interested in unilateral policies towards the Afghan problem.

Pakistan must have realized that civil war in Afghanistan is not in the interest of any regional country. Moreover, the nature of Afghan ethnicity is so interwoven with other regional countries that it is not possible to solve the Afghan labyrinth without taking into account regional factors. hence, long-term interests should be given priority in finding a solution to the Afghan crisis.

Let us hope that Bhutto's three-day visit will find a solution to the Afghan imbroglio.

Radio Urges Regional Cooperation With Pakistan

NC0711101895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 7 Nov 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] In their first round of talks, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto underlined the need to expand relations between the Iranian and Pakistani nations in various political and economic fields. During these talks, which were held last evening, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the significance and sensitivity of southern Asia and called for more exchanges of views between Tehran and Islamabad, as well as for taking advantage of the favorable conditions to consolidate relations. Our president also stated that the Islamic Republic's principled stance on Kashmir is that the votes and wishes of the Kashmiri people should be respected.

Expressing pleasure at her visit to Iran, the Pakistani prime minister stressed the strategic importance of the Islamic Republic of Iran and lauded our country's efforts to promote understanding between India and Pakistan. She also condemned the United States' efforts to pressure the Islamic Republic of Iran and said that Iran is a important strategic country. She said Islamabad believes that any effort to isolate Iran exacerbates friction in the region.

These remarks by Mrs. Bhutto, which actually reflect some of the feelings and approaches of the Pakistani people and statesmen toward our country, come at a time when the Islamic Republic of Iran—as one of the most powerful countries in south Asia—welcomes friendly relations with its neighbors. It wants to thwart the plots that are being hatched by hidden hands to upset these relations. For the common concerns and interests of Tehran and Islamabad in the sensitive and critical areas of the Islamic world—namely in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kashmir, and Palestine—dictate that these two friendly neighbors, with their profound understanding of certain regional and global developments, work to consolidate the united front of the Islamic countries.

Many political observers believe that the remarks by Hashemi- Rafsanjani and Bhutto last night show that Tehran and Islamabad have already started extensive efforts to reach this objective.

Rafsanjani Chairs Economic Council Meeting

LD3110122695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President [Akbar] Hashemi-Rafsanjani chaired last night's Economic Council. He referred to the country's domestic capability for producing strategic agricultural goods and the need for achieving self-sufficiency. He stressed the government's policy over the control of water and increase of land under cultivation as well as the expansion of pressurized irrigation projects. He also called on all government departments to increase their efforts toward the achievement of self-sufficiency in the production of the country's strategic agricultural products.

The session also allocated the supervision activities of the project for the construction of the huge Karun-3 dam with a credit of more than 35 billion rials [as heard]. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Bhutto Views Foreign Investments, U.S. Ties

BK0311151695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has called for setting up international criminal court to try those responsible for atrocities and human rights violations in Kashmir, Bosnia, and Rwanda. In a television interview during her recent visit to New York, she expressed her dissatisfaction over the UN's role in Bosnia. She said the United Nations was set up to stop aggression, but for many years, the world had helplessly watched the aggression taking place. The prime minister said although we have seen a global peace after the second World War, but the world community has failed to ensure regional peace. In this connection, she again cited the examples of Kashmir, Bosnia, and Rwanda.

About foreign investment in Pakistan, the prime minister said we have provided political stability and enough macroeconomic management. These factors are necessary for profitable investments. She was satisfied that Pakistan in recent years has successfully attracted foreign investments and also from countries like Singapore, Korea, and the Gulf, including Iran. She said massive foreign investments is itself a proof that there is a political stability and favorable industrial climate.

Asked if she would see more American aid after modification in the Pressler Amendment, she said the question is not one of aid. We would like to build a relationship with the United States on trade, and we are happy that many Americans are coming to invest in

Pakistan. She said the problem that Pakistan had with the United States was that the equipment for which payment had been made was not delivered nor did the United States give back the money. The prime minister recalled that Pakistan and the United States have been good friends and worked together in SEATO [Southeast Asia Treaty Organization], CENTO [Central Treaty Organization], Afghanistan, Somalia, and Bosnia and in combating terrorism and narcotics trade. She was happy that President Clinton had expressed satisfaction and supported the passage of the Brown Amendment.

Bhutto's 'Obedience' to U.S. Said 'Proved'

BK0511122395 Islamabad THE NATION in English 5 Nov 95 p 14

[Report by THE NATION correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PESHAWAR — Former Chief of the Army Staff and PQP [Pakistan Awami Qiyadat Party] President Miraza Aslam Beg said that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto proved her obedience before America for implementing its policies, therefore, no one could move a resolution of no-trust against her.

Talking to newsmen here Saturday [4 November] Asian Beg said that Americans couldn't choose [a] better personality than Benazir Bhutto in this region. He added that the opposition is yet to receive American's signal for toppling the Benazir Bhutto government. He said that although situation is worsening but without America's backing none could topple the present government.

He said that ulema [Islamic scholars] launched a movement against late Bhutto in 1977 at [the] behest of Americans. Referring to the role of armed forces, Mirza Aslam Beg was confident that armed forces will not interfere for replacing the government. He said that for such acts, three times in past, armed forces had made its position very shameful and now it could not afford disgrace anymore. He reminded that Ghulam Ishaq Khan had been suggested by corps commanders to take action against previous government of Benazir Bhutto in the light of Constitution but Mian Nawaz Sharif had proved nothing against the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leadership. He said that with interference of the armed forces, matters could be further complicated Aslam Beg confirmed that Chief of the Army Staff Gen. Abdul Waheed had refused to get extension in his service. However, he said that for extension from three to five years of the chief of the army staff and corps commanders powers rests only with the parliament.

Iran Said To Decline Bhutto Mediation With U.S.

BK0611120895 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 4 Nov 95 pp 8, 6

[Article by Asif Shabbir]

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamabad — It has been learned from informed sources that Iran has declined to accept mediation by Pakistan or any other country for a rapprochement with the United States. Tehran has made it clear to Pakistan, during Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to Iran beginning 6 November, that the Iranian Government will not discuss any issue relating to U.S. interests.

The Afghanistan problem and the issue of drug smuggling along the Pakistani-Iranian border top the list of important issues that are likely to be discussed during the prime minister's visit to end the ongoing cold war [sard jang] between Iran and Pakistan. Iran harbors many reservations about Pakistan's current foreign policy. Tehran complains that Pakistan is supporting the Taleban to protect U.S. interests in Afghanistan and that Islamabad has failed to check drug smuggling along the Pakistani-Iranian border. Iran completely closed its border with Pakistan last month and justified the step by saying that, because Islamabad has failed to curb cross-border narcotics smuggling, Iran was taking steps of its own to eliminate this problem by closing the border. Iran maintains that the Government of Pakistan is supporting the Taleban to protect U.S. and Saudi interests in that country and that the recent visit to Pakistan by Robin Raphel, U.S. assistant secretary of state, is a part of the same process.

It has been learned that Raphel held an in-depth discussion with the prime minister on, among other things, matters relating to Iran, and she asked Islamabad to play an effective role in implementing the U.S. policy to isolate Iran. Raphel told the Government of Pakistan that Washington understands Iran is supporting all the fundamentalist movements—which are considered to be terrorist elements by the United States—everywhere in the world. In particular, Iran is at the forefront of countries opposing Israel and Yasir 'Arafat; therefore, the Pakistani prime minister, during her visit to Iran, should exercise her influence to protect U.S. interests in the region.

Experts on regional and international affairs, however, say that, unlike in the past, Pakistan is not in a position now to protect U.S. interests. Pakistan has lost the friendship of a trusted and age-old friend because of the incorrect foreign policy pursued by the present government. Now Pakistan has no "lever" that it can apply to pressure Iran to protect U.S. interests.

How can one speak of friendly relations when a cold war is going on between Pakistan and Iran? This cold war has been further intensified with Taleban's expulsion from Herat of Haji Ismail [name as transliterated], the Persian-speaking governor of Herat. Haji Ismail has crossed over into Iran from Afghanistan. Given this situation, informed sources believe, prospects appear unlikely for a successful visit to Iran by Bhutto.

In addition to these international and regional issues, other matters that Bhutto will discuss with Iranian leaders include the purchase of 100 bulldozers from Iran, concessions to Iran to purchase a sugar plant and a cement plant from Pakistan, and the question of laying a gas pipeline between Pakistan and Iran. The Iranian Government offered to provide 100 bulldozers to Pakistan during President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari's visit to Iran last year. Leghari responded to the Iranian offer by saying that Islamabad would purchase 100 bulldozers from Iran, provided Tehran also bought a sugar plant and a cement plant from Pakistan. Regarding the gas pipeline, Tehran proposes that the pipeline to be laid between Iran and Pakistan should also be extended to India, while Islamabad opposes the extension and questions the benefit of supplying gas to India via Pakistan. It is also noteworthy, however, that Iran has also signed an agreement with India to supply gas to that country.

Bhutto Interview on Eve of Iran Visit Reported

LD0411224595 Tehran IRNA in English
2136 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Nov. 4, IRNA — In an exclusive interview with IRNA here today Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said that her country would welcome Iranian mediation to resolve the long running dispute over between India and Pakistan over the Himalayan Muslim state of Kashmir.

"Pakistan would welcome such a move," she said in the interview on the threshold of her upcoming 3-day official visit to Iran starting Monday [6 November].

Bhutto added that Islamabad greatly valued the mediation offer by Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani for resolving the simmering dispute between the two uneasy neighbours.

She spoke to IRNA on wide-ranging issues including her government's domestic policies, situation in the port city of Karachi, the Kashmir problem, and Islamabad's relations with Tehran and Kabul.

Questioned on the state of relations with Iran including the two countries economic ties, she said: "We have a relationship that rests on the firm foundations of a common faith, shared historical and cultural heritage and mutuality of interests. We have similar perceptions on the major international issues such as Kashmir, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Palestine. Where our perceptions do not coincide, our fundamental interests converge. We remain committed to the maintenance of regional and international peace and stability."

"We recognize that the economic content provides depth to any relationship," said Bhutto adding that "it has, therefore, been our constant endeavour to enhance Iran-Pakistan economic and commercial ties."

She went on to comment that "our major economic projects like the oil refinery and the gas pipeline project are progressing very satisfactorily. Fresh linkages, aimed at enhanced interaction between the business communities of the two countries, are envisaged. We are also actively considering the conclusion of important agreements in the field of investments and taxation."

On the two countries' multilateral plans, within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Bhutto said: "We are engaged in efforts to enhance region-wide economic cooperation and we believe these efforts would provide a solid economic basis to our bilateral relationship and further cement the fraternal ties between our two countries and peoples."

Questioned on the Kashmiri people's struggle which has entered a new phase and attracted the attention of international forums and that how the Islamic world will help Kashmiris in achieving their objectives, she said "We are grateful to the Islamic ummah for extending its wholehearted support to their Kashmiri brethren for the realization of the just struggle against the Indian occupation."

"It is heartening to note that the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), acknowledging the justness of the Kashmir cause and concerned over Indian atrocities against innocent Kashmiri people, formed a contact group of OIC countries to galvanize international support for the Jammu and Kashmir dispute," Bhutto answered.

She also added that "We are confident that concerted efforts by the Islamic countries would help translate the aspirations of the Kashmiri people into reality. We understand that the OIC can play a vital role in sensitizing the world opinion by investigating Indian atrocities. We also feel that OIC can help in liaising with international human rights organizations in projecting the plight of the Kashmiri people."

On the recent developments in Afghanistan, the Pakistani premier said: "The Taleban's success has been mainly due to disenchantment of the Afghan people with the Kabul government which has preferred continuation of conflict and bloodshed and has sought to receive financial and military assistance from other countries to suppress the Afghan nation."

She did not name the countries that she claimed were helping Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, nor did she say explicitly whether or not the Taleban enjoy Pakistan's support.

The Afghan Government and other mujahideen groups have charged Pakistan and the U.S. of helping the suspicious Taleban militia.

Bhutto said that being an immediate neighbour, Pakistan has a vested interest in peace and stability in Afghanistan. "We are therefore, supporting the efforts of the UN, OIC and the neutral groups for peace and conciliation in Afghanistan.

"Pakistan is neutral in the intra-Afghan rivalries. Any interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs by regional or other countries would complicate the situation and would add to the miseries of the Afghan people.

"Pakistan and Iran have been consulting with each other on the evolving situation in Afghanistan. We have no competing interest. The peace and stability in Afghanistan would contain the impulse for conflict in the region and would control arms smuggling and drug trafficking between Afghanistan and the neighboring states."

On the situation in Pakistan's commercial capital, Karachi, Bhutto admitted that law and order had broken down in that port city through which the bulk of the country's exports and imports pass.

She, however, blamed the situation on the past governments of Pakistan, and said that her government had initiated dialogue for peace with the so-called Mohajir National Movement.

Editorial Considers Relations With Iran

BK0111130395 Islamabad THE NATION in English 1 Nov 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Pakistan-Iran Relations"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto will be visiting Iran a few days from now, in the backdrop of lurking suspicions about each other's long professed ties of mutual support, cemented as these are by the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization], and above all by our ties of Islamic brotherhood. The latest irritant has been a media campaign in Iran against Pakistan's alleged support of the Taleban, which Iran sees as a move to strengthen the Sunni faction in Afghanistan. There is no Shia-Sunni conflict yet in that country and infact Hezb e-Wahdat [Unity Party], a Shia group, is fighting along with the Taleban to oust the Rabbani regime. Most Shia groups actually fought shoulder to shoulder with Sunni groups for years against the Russian-backed rulers of Kabul. But when the Taleban drove out the Governor of Herat, a Rabbani supporter, from that province and he sought refuge in Iran, the Iranian government and the Iranian media started having jitters. Even if one ignores Pakistan's repeated claims that it has no involvement in the civil war of Afghanistan, and believe, as Iran seems to do, that Pakistan is helping the Taleban, how does it follow that the move is against Iran?

In both Pakistan and Afghanistan, those who belive in Fiqh-i- Jafaria constitute the second largest group of Muslims after the believers of the Hanfi Fiqha. They hold positions of power and influence in the affairs of the state. And even though occasional conflicts among extremists from the two groups take place here, the very thought that the government of Pakistan is promoting a Sunni group at the cost of the Shias, is quite preposterous. When one takes that factor out from the whole situation and includes in it Iran's quite visible support for Rabbani, one facet of which is Iran's arming of the defeated Governor of Herat, then it would be obvious that the shoe is on other foot. Rabbani's hostility to Pakistan and his love for India needs no proof. If Iran has decided to cast its lot with the Rabbani India nexus or with any other Pakistan haters, it should say so.

It is, of course not the first occasion that Iran's foreign policy thrust is likely to move, wittingly or unwittingly, closer to India and against Pakistan's security interests. On the other hand, fortunately for the ECO and Pakistan, there is a huge fund of goodwill for Iran among the people of Pakistan. This has enabled Pakistan to absorb many shocks in the past, and the present shock, too, would presumably get absorbed in the same way. Our Foreign Minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali's statement that Pakistan is willing to mediate between Iran and the US, is evidence of the fact that despite everything Pakistan holds its friendship with Iran in High esteem. During her visit to Iran, the Prime Minister would no doubt reassure the Iranian government of Pakistan's abiding love for the people of Iran, and hopefully prevail on the policy maker's there to recipprocate such feelings, and as far as possible avoid unnecessarily siding with those who are openly hostile to Pakistan.

Minister Decries Altaf Group in Karachi 'Tragedy'

BK0311140395 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sindh Chief Minister Syed Abdullah Shah has described the brutal killing of 15 innocent laborers in Central District of Karachi as a big tragedy and has held Altaf Group responsible for it. Addressing a news conference in Karachi today, the Sindh chief minister said we have evidence that Altaf group is responsible for these gruesome murders. Muhajir Tiger Front, which claims the responsibility for these killings, is part of the Altaf Group. He said the massacre of 15 innocent persons in Karachi yesterday was most unfortunate and was in continuation of such killings done by Altaf Group in the city in the past. He denied the allegation of Altaf Hussain that the government wanted ethnic riots in Karachi and said it is Altaf Hussain who raised ethnic slogans to boost up his politics. Syed Abdullah Shah said that Altaf Group was on the offensive after arrest of their terrorists in Karachi and whenever the situation in Karachi starts returning to normalcy, such acts are committed by Altaf Group to keep the city in perpetual turmoil. The chief minister pointed out that all major killings in the past, the killings at Supermarket Liaqatabad and at Musa Colony, and recovery of over a dozen bodies from a kidnapped coach in New Karachi took place in District Central which is the stronghold of Altaf Group. He said when terrorists involved in these crimes were nabbed, they did confess involvement of Altaf Group in the same.

Protest Day was observed in Karachi today against the killing of 15 innocent laborers in the District Central of Karachi yesterday. Due to Friday [2 November], all shopping and business centers were closed. Normal traffic was on roads. However, in District Central and some areas of West District, there was thin vehicular traffic. Koran Khwanis [recitation of the holy Koran] were also held for the deceased who were murdered yesterday morning in Gulburg area.

Fourteen of the 15 people murdered in Karachi yesterday were buried today in Rahimyar Khan, Muzaffargarh, Rajanpur, and Mansehra District in their native villages, while the dead body of an unidentified deceased has been placed in the mortuary of Edhi center in Karachi. Provincial ministers — Abdul Hakim Baloch and Khwaja Mohammad Awan — represented the Sindh Government in the burial ceremony. They also distributed checks of 20,000 rupees each for the families of the deceased persons.

Police Reportedly Seize Arms Intended for Karachi

BK0311155695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sindh Chief Minister Syed Abdullah Shah has said about 130 cases of terrorist activities have been sent to the special courts for suppression of terrorist activities since June last. The details of those accused in the firing of rockets at the new building of the Sindh Secretariat have also been submitted before the court. Addressing a news conference in Karachi, he said none other than the Altaf Group is responsible for all this. Syed Abdullah Shah said the government is sincere in its efforts to resolve the Karachi problem and it is for this purpose that talks have been started with the Altaf Group.

The bodies of the nine persons from Rahimyar Khan and Alipur districts who were killed in yesterday's terrorist activity in Karachi have been buried in their native towns. As per the directive of the prime minister, 200,000 rupees each were given to the families of the deceased.

According to a press note, two persons were injured in a shooting by unidentified persons in Karachi today. Police in Khuzdar seized a huge quantity of arms and ammunition, which was being taken for terrorist activities in Sindh, particularly in Karachi. A police spokesman told newsmen in Khuzdar that the police party took a truck into custody on the Sibi highway. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from specially designed chambers in the truck.

Statement Issued on 'So-Called' Kashmir Elections

BK0611140595 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 6 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said that any process that does not accord the people of Kashmir the right of self-determination as stipulated in the United Nations Security Council resolution will not be acceptable to the people of Kashmir.

The foreign minister, in a statement, has said Indian Government decision to hold so-called elections in the disputed territory of held Kashmir and the Indian prime minister, Mr. Narasima Rao's offer for greater autonomy to the territory have been categorically rejected by All Parties Hurriyat Conference. The statement further said it has come to the notice of Pakistan that the Indian Government has already decided to deploy additional troops in the held state.

There are numerous reports that the Indian Government troops have been provided civilian clothes, chodvas

[Kashmiri dress], to enable them to participate in the bogus elections disguised as Kashmiri voters. The statement added, in view of the total alienation of the people in held Kashmir, if elections are held today, the turnout will be the same as in the previous farcical elections, in which it was mere 3 percent.

Sri Lanka

President Vows To 'Successfully Conclude' War

BK0211120595 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Chandrika Bandaranaike-Kumaratunga has said that her visit to the United Nations contributed much toward a new image for Sri Lanka as a nation of upright people with a strong government. Explaining the benefits gained by the country through her address to the 50th anniversary sessions of the United Nations in New York, the president said that it went a long way in redeeming the image of the country, which had remained tarnished for 17 long years. She observed that she was happy to be the first Sri Lankan leader to appeal to the international community for help to defeat the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] regardless of the threats to her life. Neither any Sri Lankan president nor prime minister had thrown a public challenge to the LTTE at the international level since the beginning of the war. The president said that the international community was appreciative of the government's programs for the protection of human rights, especially measures to ensure that military activities did not harm ordinary civilians.

Commenting on the talks she had with several world leaders after addressing the anniversary session, President Kumaratunga said they commended her efforts to find a permanent political solution to the ethnic crisis by putting forward constitutional proposals. She was able to explain to them the true nature of the LTTE. The president made it clear that the international community did not criticize the current military operations, but there was criticism of the previous regime. The aim of the government is to establish peace. In this context, the president made it clear that there can be no military solution. However, the government is prepared to wage war against the LTTE. The Tigers are bent on war with the government and blocking the peace process. The security forces are now conducting successful operations in Jaffna. The previous regime could not launch any direct operations in this area during the past 15 years except that Indian forces conducted the operations. The president pledged to successfully conclude the war as soon as possible and to find a political solution to the current crisis.

Government Reportedly Rejects Foreign Mediation

BK0511120695 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sri Lanka has again rejected foreign mediation to settle the conflict in the northeast, on the basis the country is better equipped to tackle its problems than any international organization. Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar made the point during talks with his Swiss counterpart, Flavio Cotti. He said several countries had offered to help, and only last week the UN Secretary Butrus Butrus-Ghali volunteered UN assistance to President Chandrika Kumaratunga.

Mr. Kadirgamar said that Sri Lanka's position was that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] unilaterally called off peace talks with the government on April 19. They have to be forced back to the negotiating table.

Sri Lanka's High Commissioner in India Mangala Moonasinghe also said there was no need for the intervention of either the United Nations or any other third party. Mr. Moonasinghe pointed out that third party interventions have not been successful in Sudan, Bosnia, and other parts of the world.

Government Answers UN Call for Aid to War Victims

BK0411145095 Hong Kong AFP in English 1436 GMT 4 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] COLOMBO, Nov 4 (AFP) — Sri Lanka on Saturday [4 November] said it was confident of overcoming the humanitarian crisis caused by the exodus of civilians from the country's north following an army assault on the Tamil rebel stronghold there.

Responding to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali's appeal for massive assistance for up to 400,000 people fleeing the area, the government said it was committed to "alleviating" their suffering. It blamed the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for the exodus.

Colombo had "noted" the concern expressed by Butrus-Ghali but was "confident that it can handle the question of humanitarian relief," an official statement said.

"The government of Sri Lanka reiterates its constant concern for the welfare of its citizens in the north and its desire to alleviate their suffering in the present situation," the statement said.

In a bid to ease their hardship the government was "taking steps to ensure that the supply of food and other essential items for the civilian population will continue uninterrupted," the statement said.

Butrus-Ghali on Friday called on "all concerned to facilitate relief assistance to the affected population by humanitarian organisations," spokesman Juan-Carlos Brandt said in New York.

"Reports of the massive displacement of the civilian population in northern Sri Lanka are a source of deep concern to the secretary general," he added, and said.

According to aid agencies up to 400,000 might have been displaced in the current fighting in the north.

However, the government accused the LTTE of "manipulating the people" and "overtly" asking them to stage "a contrived exodus" to give the rebels "a human shield for their own military evacuation" from Jaffna peninsula.

The LTTE action in urging civilians to leave was meant to deprive the government "of the stated rationale for its military action, namely, to liberate the people of the peninsula from LTTE control," the statement said.

The LTTE is fighting to set up a separate state in the northeast for Sri Lanka's two million minority Tamils. The military launched a major offensive October 17 in a bid to capture the town of Jaffna.

The government has decided to enlist the cooperation of local and foreign humanitarian agencies to ensure that essential food and medicines were distributed to the affected people "on a priority basis," the statement said.

Colombo has briefed foreign governments on those measures despite "the certainty that the LTTE takes a substantial portion of these items," it said. [passage omitted]

UN Chief Said 'Slammed' by Foreign Minister

*BK0611151295 Hong Kong AFP in English
1458 GMT 6 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 6 (AFP) — Sri Lanka on Monday [6 November] slammed the United Nations for voicing concern over the fate of thousands of civilians displaced by ethnic conflict in the island's north, and ruled out any direct role for international aid agencies.

Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar told reporters that UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali had expressed concern over the situation "without the full knowledge of the available facts."

He said Butrus-Ghali went ahead with the statement on Friday despite pleadings by Colombo.

"We have already given a response (to the UN chief) by saying we can take care of our problem," said Kadirgamar, a Tamil and a confidant of President Chandrika Kumaratunga. "But I will be sending him a sharper reply."

The minister said the government was undertaking a massive relief effort with the cooperation of the International Committee of the Red Cross for caring for the thousands fleeing fighting with Tamil rebels in the north.

"There is no need for anyone else to get involved," he said.

Kadirgamar said non-governmental agencies already operating in Sri Lanka's embattled northern region would be permitted to continue their "normal work," but added that any "enhanced activity" would be under government supervision.

On Friday, Butrus-Ghali called on "all concerned to facilitate relief assistance to the affected population by humanitarian organisations."

Tens of thousands have fled the northern peninsula of Jaffna since Sri Lankan troops launched a major offensive on October 17 to wrest the region from the control of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Minister To Write 'Sharp' Letter

*BK0711043595 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English
7 Nov 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar said the humanitarian relief will be controlled and supervised by the government.

"The government will carry out the relief operation with the help of the ICRC which has expressed its willingness to help", Mr. Kadirgamar told a special press conference at the Foreign Ministry yesterday.

He said the president is very concerned about the displacement of the people in the Jaffna peninsula and had held a conference yesterday morning to map out the strategy.

A high level government committee was appointed to handle the relief operation. It will be headed by the Additional Secretary of the Ethnic Affairs and National Integration Ministry, Jinadasa Senaratne. He was selected because he had served in Jaffna for over 10 years and loves the people of Jaffna.

The minister said except the Save the Children Fund and Medicine Sans Frontiers which are already in Jaffna all other NGOs should channel their relief through the government.

We do not intend to permit outside agencies including the UN itself to run independent relief work", he said.

He said there were charges of partiality against some of the non- governmental organisations not only in Sri Lanka but also in many developing countries.

The minister said four food ships will be sent to the LTTE- controlled Point Pedro within the next two weeks. A ship carrying flour will reach the port today.

Some foreign countries and NGOs have offered to provide material for shelter that would be handed over to the ICRC within the next two or three days.

Medicine will be sent by the Health Ministry, Mr. Kadirgamar said.

He had asked the ICRC to ensure that these essentials reach the people.

"We have asked the ICRC to ensure that the LTTE does not take a disproportionate share of what is intended for the people".

The government accepted the position that there are displaced persons in the uncleared areas of the Jaffna peninsula. A number of them left their homes to be away from the scene of fighting. Some were forced out by the LTTE.

Some reports place the number of displaced at 400,000. The minister questioned the veracity of the figure and said the government placed the figure at 100,000 after taking into account the numbers that had left the peninsula to the south and to foreign countries.

We hope that the displacement that is taking place is short lived" and said the government will create conditions of safety and security to enable the displaced persons to return to their homes soon," Mr. Kadirgamar said.

Defence Secretary Chandrananda de Silva said Operation Riviresa [sunshine] is continuing and the forces are consolidating the areas they had won back.

Mr. Kadirgamar said he would write to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali about his statement expressing his deep concern about the massive displacement of civilians in the northern province.

"It will be a little sharp", he said. He revealed that Butrus-Ghali had made his statement "without the full knowledge of the available facts" and despite pleadings by the Sri Lankan ambassador.

Army Continues Advance, Fears Use of 'Chemicals'

BK0211113395 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Troops of Operation Riviresa [sunshine] backed by armor, artillery, and the air cover, continued their advance toward Jaffna. According to military sources, there was minimal terrorist resistance as the troops captured the Neerveli- Kopai junction on Tuesday [31 October] and then the Ureli-Neerveli junction along the Jaffna-Palali road. The security forces repulsed all attempts by the terrorists to infiltrate the forward defenses which are about 7 km away from the Jaffna municipal limits. The security forces expect the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] to throw in everything they have when the troops move forward toward the small towns of Urumpirai, Kopai, and Kondavil. The troops are not leaving anything to chance but are taking maximum precautions to minimize casualties. The Army is also studying the possibility of use of chemicals by LTTE terrorists.

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